

**FINAL REPORT**

**FORMATIVE EVALUATION**

**OF**

**END CHILD MARRIAGE (ECM)**

**FLAGSHIP RESULTS**

**ETHIOPIA**



CENTER FOR  
EVALUATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
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ZENTRUM FÜR  
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ENTWICKLUNGS-  
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## ABBREVIATIONS

BER	Basic Efficiency Resource
BoWSA	Bureaus of Women and Social Affairs
C4D	Communication for Development
C4ED	Center for Evaluation and Development
CP	Child Protection
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECM	End Child Marriage
EQ	Evaluation Question
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
IDI	In-Depth-Interview
Logframe	Logical framework
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MoWCY	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Purchasing power parity
SBC	Social and Behaviour Change
ToC	Theory of Change
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background of the Evaluation

Child marriage is a human rights violation that disproportionately affects women and girls (UN HRC 2015). Despite substantial progress regarding legislation and policy changes and a significant decline in child marriage between 2005 and 2016, the prevalence of child marriage in Ethiopia remains high. Several interplaying factors result in high child marriage rates. Social and religious norms restrict women and girls to the roles of wives and mothers, and gendered stereotypes oblige them to do all or most of the domestic labour and childcare (Jones et al., 2014; MoWA, 2006). Further, lack of alternatives, such as opportunities for vocational training, safe secondary schools with water and toilets, or access to safe and paid labour, may put girls and women at risk of child marriage (Ngales, 2007; MoWA, 2006). Incentives for acquiring dowry and traditions of family honour tied to brides being young virgins also drive child marriage (Jones et al., 2014). Emergencies, such as conflict and drought, and the forced migration it causes, further exacerbate the risk of child marriage, as it is used as an economic coping mechanism for family survival (UNICEF, 2022b). A recent report further indicates that contextual factors like the availability of social protection and poverty alleviation programmes, and the presence of conflicts, forced migration and displacement, could also play a role in either ending or perpetuating child marriage (UNFPA & UNICEF, 2021).

To combat child marriage and its multiple causes, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Ethiopia has been implementing the United Nations Global End Child Marriage (ECM) Programme since 2016. Since 2020, Phase II of the Global Programme (2020–2023) has been carried out in the country by UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund. The current phase is expected to take a gender-transformative and multisectoral approach and will avail opportunities to change harmful social and gender norms and practices.

The Evaluation for UNICEF Ethiopia Country Programme (2016-2020) and the Partners Perception Study, both conducted in 2019, highlighted the need for strengthening collaboration between programmes to accelerate results for children. In response to these findings, UNICEF Ethiopia articulated components of existing programmes (such as the ECM Programme) around four Flagship Results for the new 2020-2025 Country Programme. UNICEF selected the 'End Child Marriage' as one of its four Flagship Result Programmes. The ECM Flagship Result Programme aims to contribute to the implementation of the government's National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (2020-2024) and to accelerate the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 5.3. The ECM Flagship aims to contribute to a society free of child marriage, where girls use their potential, enjoy their rights, and thrive in life by 2025. To achieve its goals, the ECM Flagship is comprised of UNICEF programme components in different areas, including child protection, education, water sanitation and hygiene, social and behaviour change, health, nutrition, emergency social protection, and communication. The ECM Flagship is mainly implemented by different governmental actors with complementary activities from non-governmental actors, and coordination from different UNICEF sections as part of country programmes, which represent the implementation structure of the ECM Flagship.

This evaluation analyses the ECM Flagship Result Programme and assesses what has been done to end child marriage within its framework and how the ECM Flagship can accelerate progress towards ending child marriage.

## Objectives and Intended Audience

The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess, draw lessons on and document the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the ECM Flagship Result Programme. The evaluation provides evidence and share learnings and recommendations, which will inform advocacy efforts and contribute to the improvement of strategies and multisectoral programme implementation throughout and beyond the ECM Flagship. Accordingly, findings will facilitate learning and inform the way forward for UNICEF, its Field Offices and (implementing) partners, such as the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, and the Ministry of Education.

## Evaluation Methodology

The formative evaluation of the ECM Flagship is theory-based and builds upon the criteria relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability established by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Research questions are designed to test the Flagship Programme's Theory of Change to see if it holds true, and to assess whether its logical framework and other Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks and implementation modalities are on the right track. The evaluation uses an embedded mixed-method design, where quantitative secondary data (Demographic and Health Survey, monitoring and programme data) was included to answer research questions within the predominantly qualitative evaluation. Qualitative research focussed on primary data collection among programme participants and implementers through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews, and was complemented by secondary qualitative data analysis of programme documents and other literature and data on child marriage.

Due to the short timeline of the evaluation, a convergent research approach was used, where qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data were collected at the same time, and results were converged on during the interpretation stage. Special attention was given to assessing the relative contribution towards ending child marriage of the ECM Flagship, its different sector components, as well as factors external to the programme.

The research methodology follows a human rights-based approach, which is based on participatory evaluation methods, putting rights holders at the centre of the research and allowing adolescents the opportunity to express their own views and opinions both on the ECM Flagship and the evaluation results. The gender sensitivity of the evaluation was ensured by considering gender in staffing decisions, interviewing female and male respondents, selecting appropriate interview types and locations for discussing sensitive topics on gender with respective respondents, and tailoring interview questions to elicit information from a variety of viewpoints in a culturally appropriate way (accommodating gender norms and practices). In addition, the analysis considered gender dynamics and was conducted against the theoretical framework of gender-transformative programming.

## Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

### Findings and Conclusions

The following findings and conclusions can be made for the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes.

**Relevance:** Findings show that the ECM Flagship targets areas of high need (areas with a high prevalence of child marriage). They also show that the ECM Flagship design considers



multisectoral vulnerabilities. However, actual convergence of multisectoral activities is limited. There are also several factors which can strongly affect child marriage, but which were not adequately considered in the ECM Flagship design, namely drought, conflict, and economic hardship. We also found that the programme could target specific sub-groups among programme participants (primarily girls and men) in a more differentiated way. Findings show that the ECM Flagship closely aligns with governmental and UNICEF priorities.

**Efficiency:** The ECM Flagship programme design clearly identifies unique contributions and synergies between the various UNICEF sections to combat child marriage. On the other hand, the ECM Flagship failed to affect convergent programming of multiple sectors towards ending child marriage. This is mainly due to ECM Flagship conceptualisation, which dispenses with integrated programme planning and budgeting and instead relies on structures of existing programmes from different sectors. Different ECM Flagship outputs have been mostly achieved with existing resources. Still, efficient utilisation of resources can be optimised in several areas. The ECM Flagship possesses a solid Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with some weaknesses which stem from the ECM Flagship's Programme design, as well as UNICEF Ethiopia standard regulations and operating procedures.

**Effectiveness:** We found that convergence and cooperation to end child marriage within UNICEF among the sections water sanitation and hygiene, health, and nutrition are very limited, whereas cooperation and convergence among child protection, education, and social and behaviour change sections have pre-dated the ECM Flagship and is more pronounced. Effects of activities from different sectors could clearly be found during qualitative data collection. However, the lack of outcome data as part of the ECM Flagship does not allow for quantification and differentiated analysis of the effectiveness of convergent programming. We also found systematic efforts by the ECM Flagship and associated programmes to strengthen governance systems and policies towards ending child marriage. While it is not always possible to conclusively attribute changes in governmental policies, systems, and practices to efforts undertaken by UNICEF, such changes are apparent.

**Sustainability:** The ECM Flagship programme design puts a strong focus on sustainability. It adopted messages and activities on different levels to maximise the facilitators and to limit the barriers to long-lasting behavioural change towards ending child marriage: in addition to targeting social and behaviour change among girls, their families, peer networks and their communities, the programme also puts a strong focus on increasing technical and financial capacities and ownership of the government to maintain and upscale activities to end child marriage. Accordingly, evaluation findings confirm that different ECM Flagship outputs and outcomes could be sustained until now. Despite these strengths inherent in the ECM Flagships' programme design, it is apparent that child marriage is influenced by a multitude of factors and that not all of these can be controlled or steered by UNICEF.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations can be made for the future planning and implementation of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes.

- **Test integrated programming for multisectoral convergent interventions to end child marriage:** Small-scale multisectoral convergent interventions should be tested in different regions to generate evidence and lessons learnt to inform future strategies on multisectoral, convergent programming towards ending child marriage. Pilot projects should include

localised, integrated needs assessments and an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework to generate robust evidence on the effects of convergent programming. Small/scale convergent interventions can be implemented in preparation for the new UNICEF Country Programme and later scaled up within the Programme.

- **Integrate outcome indicators in ECM Flagship monitoring and evaluation framework:** To bridge knowledge gaps on programme outcomes and to efficiently utilise existing assessment and monitoring tools, reporting within the ECM Flagship (and, where necessary, associated programmes) should include indicators that track and measure changes among the programme's catchment population.
- **Initiate programme partnerships with other United Nations agencies to include livelihood into ECM programming:** Considering the importance of livelihood and the limitations of UNICEF to engage in livelihood activities, negotiations with other United Nations agencies, and/or non-governmental organisations should be held in preparation for the new Country Programme, so that the new programme cycle can include livelihood interventions that contribute towards ending child marriage.
- **Pilot targeting ever married girls as agents for change:** Considering that girls have increasing agency in decision-making towards marriage and that unmarried girls tend to use their peers as sources of information, the ECM girls/gender club component should consider strengthening capacities of ever married girls as activists against child marriage to increase programme effectiveness and to strengthen the programme's human rights-based approach.
- **Upscale peacebuilding and social cohesion messaging:** Conflict can become a driver for child marriage. The inclusion of peacebuilding and social cohesion into social and behaviour change messaging should be considered for gender clubs and community dialogue sessions of the ECM Flagship to contribute to increase resilience towards conflict. Such activities reportedly have already been piloted and should be considered for upscaling.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Child marriage is a human rights violation, disproportionately affecting girls (HRC, 2015). Since it came to power in the early 1990s, Ethiopia has seen substantial progress regarding legislation and policy for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality and from 2005 to 2016, Ethiopia experienced an overall impressive decline in child marriage<sup>1</sup> (Erulkar, 2022). However, although child marriage is outlawed, and the awareness of the law is increasing, its prevalence remains high (Jones et al., 2016). For example, 40 percent of women (approximately 15 million) aged 20-24 years old were married or in a union before the age of 18, and 14 percent of women (approximately 6 million) aged 20-24 years old were married or in a union before the age of 15 (UNICEF, 2018; UNICEF, 2022).

Several studies show the harmful consequences of child marriage. Women married before the age of 18 are more likely to give birth at earlier ages, have a larger number of children, and are less likely to deliver in health care facilities or assisted by skilled providers. They also have a higher chance of experiencing physical violence from an intimate partner (Fan & Koski, 2022). Child marriage is also associated with significant emotional distress and specific mental health conditions (Burgess et al., 2022). With respect to economic consequences, child marriage reduces the level of the girls' educational attainment, thereby reducing earnings in adulthood, as compared to women who are married after the age of 18 (Wodon et al., 2017). Studies also show that girls who marry early have less decision-making power within their marital home, lower labour force participation and earnings, and less control over productive household assets (Parsons et al., 2015).

Several interplaying factors result in high child marriage in Ethiopia. Social and religious norms that restrict females to the roles of wives and mothers as well as gendered stereotypes that oblige females to do all or most of the domestic labour work and childcare imply that girls tend to marry before the age of 18 (Jones et al., 2014; MoWA, 2006). Furthermore, lack of alternatives such as opportunities for vocational training or safe secondary schools with water and toilets, or access to safe and paid labour may also put girls and women at risk (Ngales, 2007; MoWA, 2006). Incentives for acquiring dowry and traditions of family honour tied to brides being young virgins also drive child marriage in Ethiopia (Jones et al., 2014). Emergencies such as conflict and drought further exacerbate the risk of child marriage, as the practice is used as an economic coping mechanism for family survival (UNICEF, 2022b). In 2022, Ethiopia has seen rising trends of child marriage in conflict and drought-affected regions (UNICEF, 2022b). A recent report shows that the COVID-19 pandemic also rose the risk of child marriage globally through interrupted education, economic and food insecurity, disruptions to programmes and services, adolescent pregnancy, and death of a parent or primary caretaker. This report further indicates that contextual factors such as the availability of social protection and poverty alleviation programmes and the presence of conflicts, forced migration and displacement could also play a role in ending or perpetuating child marriage (UNFPA & UNICEF, 2021).

To combat child marriage UNICEF Ethiopia has been implementing the United Nations (UN) Global End ECM Programme since 2016. Since 2020, the Phase II of the Global Programme (2020–2023) has been implemented in the country by UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund

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<sup>1</sup> Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.

(UNFPA). The current phase is expected to take a gender-transformative and multisectoral approach and will avail opportunities to change harmful social and gender norms and practices.

The Evaluation for UNICEF Ethiopia Country Programme (2016-2020) and the Partners Perception Study both conducted in 2019, highlighted the need for strengthening collaboration between programmes to accelerate results for children. In response to these findings, UNICEF Ethiopia articulated components of existing programmes (such as the ECM Programme) around four Flagship Results for the new 2020-2025 Country Programme. UNICEF selected the 'End Child Marriage' / ECM as one of its four Flagship Result Programmes.

The ECM Flagship Result Programme aims to contribute to the implementation of the governments' National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) 2020-2024. The roadmap is committed to the total elimination of harmful practices by 2025 (MoWCY, 2019). The ECM Flagship also contributes to accelerate the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, which is to "eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030". The ECM Flagship is aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3 (Every child is protected from violence and exploitation), and Article 35(4) of Ethiopia's Constitution, which guarantees women the right to protection by the state from harmful customary/traditional practices. It also supports "Proclamation No. 414/2004 of the Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia" (UNICEF, 2022).

The ECM Flagship is anticipated to contribute to the UNICEF objective that "by 2025, children in Ethiopia, in both development and humanitarian contexts, have legal identity and are safe and protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices". Furthermore, the Flagship Programme aims to reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before the age of 18, from 40 percent to 27.6 percent by 2025. To achieve its goals, the ECM Flagship is comprised of UNICEF programme components in different areas, including child protection (CP), education, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social and behaviour change (SBC), health, nutrition, emergency, social protection, and communication. The ECM Flagship is coordinated by different UNICEF sections of ongoing country programmes and is implemented predominantly by governmental partners (Ministries and Bureaus from different sectors) with complementary activities by non-governmental partners.

By utilizing the resource obtained from donors that finance efforts to end child marriage, UNICEF provides a predominantly financial and technical support to various levels of governmental offices such as Ministries, regional and woreda level bureaus. Co-funding and being the main implementing partner, the Ethiopian government involves the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA)<sup>2</sup>, Ministry of Education (MoE) and their regional counterparts; law enforcement and health bureaus at regional level and anti-HTP committees comprised of health, education, religious leaders, women leaders, police representatives at woreda level work in close collaboration. The education bureau is responsible for overseeing implementation of the activities in the ECM Flagship focused on in-school girls while the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs (BoWSA<sup>3</sup>) mainly oversees the implementation of the ECM Flagship focused on the out-of-school girls.

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<sup>2</sup> This report also references documents published by the Ministry under the following different names: Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY).

<sup>3</sup> We found that there are slight variations in the terminology used for BoWSA between the different regions (such as Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs - BoWCA or Bureau of Women, Children and Social Affairs - BoWCSA). This report uses BoWCA as an umbrella term for all corresponding bureaus from the different regions.

The ECM Flagship's multisectoral approach is expected to produce the following outputs:<sup>4</sup>

- Output 1: Underserved/ marginalised adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced, or widowed are engaged in gender transformative life skills and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes that build their knowledge, skills, awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.
- Output 2: Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality.
- Output 3: Strengthened provision of integrated multi-sectoral services (WASH, Health, Social protection, Education and Nutrition services) to protect girls from child marriage.
- Output 4: Capacity building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multi-sectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child marriage across ministries and sections at sub-national levels.

This evaluation analyses the progress the ECM Flagship has made so far and inform future programming and policy making based on lessons learnt from the programme implementation.

## 2. EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

This evaluation is a formative evaluation of the ECM Flagship Result Programme. Its overall **purpose** is to assess, draw lessons and document the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and added value of the ECM Flagship Result Programme. It also provides evidence and shares learnings and recommendations which will inform advocacy efforts and contribute to the improvement of strategies and implementation (of multisectoral cooperation) throughout and beyond the remaining ECM Flagship implementation. Accordingly, findings will facilitate learning and inform the way forward for UNICEF, its Field Offices, and partners such as the MoWSA and MoE.

The specific **objectives of the evaluation** are:

- 1) To assess the Flagship Result Programme design and *results contributions of various actors*, as well as the *synergistic effects* of the various interventions (from several sectors) to ECM (at outcome level);
- 2) To assess whether the results achieved demonstrate *that interventions are on the right track* to deliver ECM desired (disaggregated) results at scale;
- 3) To identify *challenges, risks and mitigation* measures put in place;
- 4) To assess the *strength of partnership* among the major stakeholders and implementing partners that has/might contribute/d to achieve results;
- 5) To identify *knowledge gaps* as well as related future research.

The **scope** of the evaluation is limited to UNICEF **ECM Flagship** and its various aspects. These include supporting an enabling environment to end child marriage, strengthening provision of integrated multi-sectoral services, and engaging families, communities and leaders in dialogue

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<sup>4</sup> We noticed an inconsistency between outputs and outcomes depicted in the Flagship Programme Theory of Change compared to the Flagship Programme's logframe (the Theory of Change depicts three intermediate outcomes, six immediate outcomes and six outputs whereas the logframe depicts one outcome and four outputs). The Evaluation will use the outcomes & outputs as depicted in the logframe as a reference.

and consensus building around alternatives to child marriage. The evaluation also assesses other dimensions covered by the ECM Flagship such as engaging girls at risk (and boys) in gender transformative life skills programmes that build their knowledge, skills, and awareness of their rights and to connect them to services. Gender, equity, and child rights dimensions are given adequate consideration, and the evaluation looks at the Flagship Result Programme through a gendered lens (for example, in looking at how programmatic activities address gender dynamics<sup>5</sup> related to ending child marriage).

Temporally, the scope of this evaluation ranges from the beginning of the Country Programme Document, July 2020, to the beginning of the evaluation fieldwork in February 2023. Geographically, the evaluation is generally at national level. While the desk review covers sources and data from all eight regions of the country, qualitative research was conducted in selected woredas of three regions, namely Oromia, Amhara, and Somali, which had been identified by UNICEF as promising for a telling analysis during the evaluation.<sup>6</sup> The evaluation took place between November 2022 and June 2023 and was budgeted with USD 99,040.

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<sup>5</sup> Gender dynamics in this context refers to relationships and interactions between and among individuals, family members, service providers and the broader community, based on gender.

<sup>6</sup> According to the ToR (Annex VII) regions were selected based on their high prevalence of ECM, high geographic and budgetary coverage by the ECM Flagship and associated programmes, prevalence of emergencies as external factors which drive child marriage as well as promising practices which had been reported within the programme.



### 3. EVALUATION DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The formative evaluation is theory-based and uses an embedded, mixed-method design. Utilising a selection of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability), the evaluation is designed to test the ECM Flagship's Theory of Change (ToC) to see if it holds true and assess whether the logical framework (logframe) as well as other Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks and implementation modalities are on track. Special attention was given to the relative contribution of the ECM Flagship, its different sector components, as well as external factors towards ending ECM. The complete ToC, as developed by the Flagship Programme, can be found in Annex II.

The evaluation's embedded research design utilises qualitative and quantitative datasets, with one type of data embedded within a methodology framed by the other data type (Greene & Caracelli, 1997). In the context of this evaluation, quantitative secondary data was included to answer research questions within the theory-based, qualitative evaluation. Due to the short timeline of the evaluation, a convergent mixed-methods approach was used, where qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data are collected at the same time, and then the different results are converged (by comparing and contrasting them) during the interpretation.

The research methodology followed a human rights-based approach based on participatory methods that give adolescents the opportunity to express their own views and opinions on the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the ECM Flagship Result Programme, as well as on the evaluation results. The approach adopted included both consultative and collaborative modes of participation of adolescents during the evaluation process (see UNICEF (2019)).

Consultative approaches include focus group discussions (FGDs) with and analysis of structured surveys of programme participants. A more collaborative approach was used during in-depth-interviews (IDIs) with adolescent girls. To encourage their agency and collaboration, interviews with adolescent girls followed a life histories approach, which gives respondents the room to lead the discussion. This approach does not merely relegate participants to data resources but engages them as active agents in defining the issues to be evaluated.<sup>7</sup> As a final collaborative step, the evaluation methodology (inception report) and findings (final report) is reviewed by and discussed with young female activists who have been identified by and collaborate with UNICEF as part of this evaluation.

The gender sensitivity of the evaluation design was ensured by considering gender in staffing decisions, interviewing female and male respondents, selecting gender-sensitive interview types and locations with respective respondents, and tailoring interview questions to elicit information from a variety of viewpoints in a culturally appropriate way (accommodating gender norms and practices). In addition, research questions on (potential) ECM effects have been assessed against the theoretical framework of gender-transformative programming. Primary and secondary research has reviewed the ECM Flagship design, implementation, monitoring and reporting to assess the extent of its (potential) effects on gender transformative change at the individual, family, community and social / structural level. For more information on the evaluation's

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<sup>7</sup> Life histories are time-consuming (requiring data collection over a longer period of time) and therefore tend to be not suitable for short-term evaluations. Consequently, the methodology of life histories may only be partially applied for this evaluation.

consideration of gender equality and empowerment of women and ethical considerations see Annex I.

On the side of UNICEF, the evaluation manager ensured a first level of quality assurance of key deliverables. In addition, two evaluation reference groups were established to comment and advise on the evaluation methodology (inception report) and final report. One reference group consisted of a variety of UNICEF country office and field office staff, the other consisted of young female activists for women's rights. Review of key deliverables by the UNICEF Regional Office functioned as an additional layer of quality assurance.

### **3.1. Evaluation Questions**

The following evaluation questions (EQs) are based on the OECD Development Assistance Committee criteria and have been designed to assess the ECM Flagship's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability:

#### **1 RELEVANCE**

- 1.1 To what extent is the ECM Flagship Result Programme design and implementation relevant in addressing major issues for girls' vulnerability to Child Marriage
- 1.2 How relevant and responsive has the ECM Flagship Result Programme been to national and community needs, priorities and commitments?
- 1.3 To what extent is the Flagship Programme aligned with UNICEF priorities with respect to ending child marriage?

#### **2 EFFICIENCY**

- 2.1 How has the Flagship Programme result's approach facilitated linkages and synergies between sectors to accelerate efforts to end child marriage?
- 2.2 To what extent have the outputs of the ECM Flagship Result Programme been achieved or are likely to be achieved with the appropriate number of resources (funds, expertise, time, procedures, rules and regulations, administrative costs, etc.)?
- 2.3 To what extent are monitoring mechanisms in place to track changes as result of ECM Flagship Result Programme implementation?

#### **3 EFFECTIVENESS**

- 3.1 How are different sectors (including elements WASH, health, nutrition) contributing to increasing girls' wellbeing within and beyond the objectives of the ECM Flagship Result Programme?
- 3.2 How much has the programme positively influenced (or is likely to do so in the coming years) systems and policies in different sectors to support girls who are vulnerable to child marriage?

#### **4 SUSTAINABILITY**

- 4.1 Will benefits last?
- 4.2 What changes - to which the ECM Flagship Result Programme contributed - can be identified and are likely to last in the lives of individuals, families, communities and the broader environment?
- 4.3 To what extent is the "National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C - 2020-2024" implemented (incl. budget allocation and accountability mechanisms) and which outputs can be expected to last?



Table 4 in Annex III depicts the complete draft Evaluation Matrix including research questions, measurements, and sources and evaluation methodology.

## 3.2. Primary Data Collection and Analysis

Qualitative primary data collected from project implementers and participants served as the main source of information for this evaluation. The sections that follow summarise the sampling strategy and tools used for primary data collection.

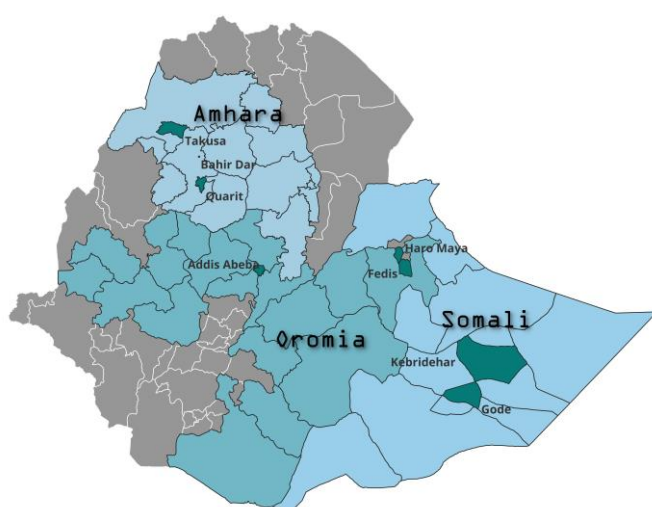
### 3.2.1. SAMPLING STRATEGY AND DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Qualitative interviews were conducted in **three regions (Amhara, Oromia and Somali) of Ethiopia**. These regions were primarily selected by UNICEF due to their high prevalence of child marriage, and high geographic and budgetary coverage by the ECM Flagship and associated programmes. After the approval of the inception report, **purposive sampling** was employed to select **two woredas per region**, in which one data collection point (kebele) in each was determined based on the following **selection criteria**<sup>8</sup>:

- Long-term ECM Flagship implementation / “maturity” of programme
- Prevalence and maximum convergence of multisectoral ECM Flagship activities
- Accessibility and security for researchers
- (maximum) variation in overall performance of targeted vs. achieved programme outputs / outcomes
- variation in strong vs. weak prevalence of external factors which (are likely to) contribute to ECM and undermine ECM Flagship outcomes (e.g., prevalence of conflict, drought)

The selected woredas of the three regions are depicted in Figure 1 below, which shows data collection sites for qualitative research.

*Figure 1. Data collection sites for the primary data collection*



Source: Map created by C4ED

<sup>8</sup> Final selection of woredas / kebeles based on the above criteria were made by ECM staff of the UNICEF field offices in the regions.

The sample was stratified further into the following **respondent categories**: Flagship Programme implementers (UNICEF and partner organisations including local service providers profiting from programme capacity development activities), female adolescents participating in the programme, their caretakers and family members, community members / leaders participating in the programme, and local / regional service providers profiting from programme capacity developing activities. The evaluation employed three research methods for qualitative data collection: key informant interviews (KII), FGD and IDI (in form of life histories). Different tools with topic guides and open-ended questions had been developed for each method for different respondent groups. As shown in the Evaluation Matrix (see Table 4 Annex III), interview questions and topic guides were created to address various research questions and indicators and tailored to the different respondent groups.

- **UNICEF ECM Flagship Result Programme staff**: One-on-one, and when feasible / necessary, small group interviews were held with key informants within UNICEF who are considered experts on the ECM Flagship. Interviews were conducted with ECM Flagship programme coordinators and section leads and focal points at the country office as well as Field Office staff from different sections of Amhara, Oromia and Somali.
- **ECM Flagship Result Programme implementers**: Similar to interviews with key informants from UNICEF, KII and small group interviews were held with representatives from different regional governmental Bureaus which implement and report to the ECM Flagship. In addition, FGDs at woreda level were held with governmental implementers who act and are capacitated as 'local service providers' within the ECM Flagship (see logframe output 3).
- **Female adolescent ECM Flagship participants (12-19 years)**: The evaluation put a focus on the voices of adolescent girls, which is reflected in the relative and absolute number of interviewed female adolescent programme participants. Research was conducted with in-school and out-of-school, married and unmarried girls with and without disabilities who participated in the girls / gender clubs<sup>9</sup> (see logframe output 1). While FGDs focussed on the girls' experience with programme activities, IDIs / life histories focused on eliciting the girls' narration of their life histories through open-ended and exploratory questions.
- **Family members**: To triangulate and complement findings from life histories, IDIs with family members of interviewed girls' were held. Interviews primarily targeted male family members (brothers, fathers, uncles) and mothers to provide more context and insights on barriers and drivers for child marriage among young girls and their family members.
- **Other ECM Flagship programme participants** included adult male and female community members from community mobilisation activities as well as adolescent boys who participated in the community mobilisation activities and / or gender clubs (logframe output 3 and 1). Interviews were held in form of FGDs.

In total, 227 respondents - 19 UNICEF staff, 48 implementers (including 12 implementing organisation representatives at regional level and 36 community service providers), 102 adolescent girls, 9 family members, and 49 community members - were interviewed. Table 3 in

<sup>9</sup> Initially clubs were accessible to girls only. Recently, in-school clubs were opened up to joint sessions with boys and renamed „gender clubs“, whereas out-of-school clubs continue to target girls only and remain commonly known as „girls clubs“. Accordingly, this report uses the terminology girls/gender clubs.

Annex II provides an overview of the number of respondents per respondent category and region.

To ensure cultural appropriateness and uphold ethical principles and standards, all data collection tools (consent forms and interview guides) were developed together with an Ethiopian thematic expert on child marriage, contracted for this assignment. Tools were translated into Amharic, Afan Oromo, and Somali languages. The recruited qualitative researchers provided further feedback based on their experience and local knowledge to best contextualise the interview questions. The qualitative researchers also tested the interview guides during the piloting phase and provided input necessary to enhance their quality. Regular debriefing sessions during data collection also facilitated the continuous adjustment of the guides.

### 3.2.2. ANALYSIS

The analysis process of the primary qualitative data was done in two stages. The first one, simultaneous to data collection, was based on the research team's daily reflection and interpretation of interview notes and field observation notes to draw initial findings immediately after data collection, as requested by UNICEF. A more thorough analysis was then conducted after data collection by developing codes and themes for the collected data. The analysis of interviews was stratified by respondent characteristics or markers, which vary for the different respondent groups. Another step of triangulation was through cross-checking evidence from the different types of tools and respondents to validate specific findings. Finally, findings from qualitative data collection were triangulated with and complemented by findings from secondary quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

## 3.3. Secondary Data Collection and Analysis

To further complement and triangulate primary qualitative data, the evaluation gathered and analysed secondary quantitative data.

### 3.3.1. DATA SOURCES

Secondary data stems from sources shared by UNICEF with C4ED and available secondary datasets. The data consists of the following sources:

- 1) **Monitoring data.** It consists of data collected and reported by UNICEF's implementing partners. It provides information on whether project activities were conducted and targets on the output level are achieved as well as on programme expenditures. Complete datasets are available at regional and national level.
- 2) **Programme documents.** The documents shared by UNICEF among other background documents include a detailed ToC and the Flagship Programme result framework which are important to understand the Flagship Programme rationality.
- 3) **Secondary Data Sets.** The 2019 and 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) provide contextual insights with quantitative demographic and health information on child marriage in the ECM Flagship regions as compared to others in the country. Individual and household level microdata are available in both datasets, although with substantial differences in terms of their scope. 2019 DHS is an interim version of the standard DHS conducted in 2016 in Ethiopia. This implies poorer data for 2019, which

necessarily limits the scope of the analysis for this particular period. This is the reason why both 2016 and 2019 DHS are included in this report.

The other two data sources for quantitative analysis mentioned in the ToR and inception report were eventually excluded given the limitations in their scope. The survey data shared with C4ED was limited to six woredas and 3 regions. Accordingly, data could not be used to obtain regionally or nationally representative information. The evaluability assessment, which was shared with C4ED, did not contain relevant quantitative data.

### 3.3.2. ANALYSIS

For the evaluation, C4ED analysed quantitative secondary data as part of the mixed-methods approach for the EQs 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1.

Once data was received from UNICEF, it was converted into a form that allowed for analysis and reproducibility with the statistical software Stata, namely into .dta files. Quantitative data was systematically and comprehensively reviewed and critically assessed, classified according to the programmes' activities, outputs, and the main outcomes of interest.

In addition, the DHS data were used to further understand the background and implementation logic of the programme, as well as the potential mechanisms behind child marriage. Descriptive analysis are presented in the form of graphs and tables, for a comprehensive overview of different outcomes of interest. Regression results are also included whenever some inferential statistical analysis is possible and can help answer the EQs.<sup>10</sup> Based on the desk review of the documents and data shared by UNICEF, identifiable gaps in data, indicator and programming were elaborated.

Finally, we use the information on expenditure and programme beneficiaries to establish the effectiveness of the ECM Flagship, using a simplified Value for Money (VfM) approach, i.e. the Basic Efficiency Resource (BER) method (Fleming, 2021). In this method, two variables are compared, the input (expenditure) against the output (number of beneficiaries in our case). The input/output ratio is used to determine where each output ranks, and how well the overall Flagship programme performs. Although originally a cost efficiency analysis was planned, due to the absence of relevant information (expenditures and outcomes), the BER approach was adopted.

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<sup>10</sup> Every step from data cleaning to analysis is reproducible and documented in Stata do-files that will be shared with UNICEF after the completion of the assignment. We thereby guarantee adherence to OECD recommendations on research integrity, transparency, and replicability, such that "the relationship between 'raw' data and 'data products' [is] explicit" (OECD, 2016).

## 4. DATA COLLECTION

Preparation for data collection began after the approval of the evaluation's inception report. In collaboration with the client, ethical clearance was secured end of January 2023 and sample areas for data collection were selected by early February 2023. The research team consisted of one international C4ED researcher, one national C4ED researcher and two external local researchers who speak the local languages. To follow a gender-sensitive research approach the research team comprised of both female and male researchers.<sup>11</sup>

On the first week of February, the international researcher started conducting KIIs with UNICEF and researchers were contracted and trained in Addis Ababa. Following the training, the research tools were finalised and translated before they were tested during a one-day pilot. After identifying and agreeing with UNICEF field office staff on the exact research locations (woredas/kebeles), a detailed field work plan was developed. Once the support letters were obtained from the client and regional government implementers, researchers were deployed to the three regions from 5 to 27 February. Based on the agreed-upon selection criteria, UNICEF regional field staff and staff from implementing organisations and external monitors assisted in the identification and mobilisation of selected interview participants.

The research team conducted a total of 61 interview sessions (see also Table 3 Annex II). The interviews were held predominantly in person at the capital and then consecutively in the six woredas / kebeles of the three selected regions.<sup>12</sup> Within each woreda, the research team conducted interviews simultaneously: two researchers conducting FGD (one moderator, one note taker) while at the same time, one researcher conducting a KII or IDI. The international researcher conducted interviews with the assistance of local interpreters contracted for this assignment (one for each region). Researchers alternated between respondent groups to ensure that they were exposed to a variety of topics and perspectives. This also allowed for better triangulation during analysis.

IDIs and FGDs with adolescents were conducted in community spaces which were familiar to them.<sup>13</sup> Similarly, FGDs and KIIs with adults were held at community spaces or governmental / UNICEF offices.

The research team held regular debriefing session during data collection. During these sessions, researchers shared, compared, collated, and interpreted preliminary findings from interviews. Furthermore, the rigorous, and frequent communication between researchers improved the quality of each interviewer's performance, increased the fluidity of the exchange with evaluation participants, and allowed the research team to adapt interview questions based on previous findings in a coordinated manner throughout data collection.

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<sup>11</sup> The male researcher conducted mixed FGDs and KIIs and IDIs with male family members, whereas female researchers conducted mixed FGDs, FGDs and IDIs with adolescent girls and family members as well as KIIs.

<sup>12</sup> Where face-to face interviews were not feasible, interviews with key informants were held remotely via messaging apps such as MS Teams or WhatsApp.

<sup>13</sup> Providing „safe spaces“ for adolescents during interviews was at times challenging due to the lack of locally available safe spaces and the interest researchers tended to generate among the local community. Researchers repeatedly had to request other community members to respect the privacy of respondents move away from interview locations.

## 5. LIMITATIONS AND RESEARCH GAPS

Findings, lessons learnt and recommendations presented in sections 6-8 need to be considered in the light of the following research gaps and limitations.

The evaluation had **severe limitations in attributing changes and effects to (the existence of) the ECM Flagship** as opposed to other pre-existing programmes due to the nature of the ECM Flagship programme. As touched upon in the background and evaluation scope (sections 1-2) the ECM Flagship is a theoretical concept without independent (needs) assessments, baselines, budget, data collection, monitoring and reporting system. Instead, it is dependent on implementation and monitoring systems of (pre-)existing country programmes. This made it hard, if not impossible, for the evaluation to isolate and attribute any changes to the ECM Flagship alone. In addition, lack of awareness about the ECM Flagship concept among interviewed local implementers and programme participants further impeded knowledge generation about the ECM Flagship's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. To meaningfully assess the evaluation criteria and questions, we considered the country programme components which report towards the ECM Flagship as part of the ECM Flagship while we still highlighted the weaknesses and limitations of the programme design in our findings and conclusions.

**Availability, reliability, and validity of secondary quantitative data:** The lacking data and added inconsistencies of programme documentation imply that the findings stemming from this secondary data need to be treated with caution, and that further probing, where required, is needed by the reader. The missing data at individual level (existing surveys, for instance) implies that the demographic information of individuals is missing. As a mitigation strategy, alternative sources of demographic information were sought to add more nuance to the results.

During data collection, the qualitative research team frequently observed **(positive) response bias among interviewed implementing partners and programme participants**. This led to apparent contradictory, inconsistent and at times (presumed) inaccurate and false responses. Possible explanations for (positive) response bias are social desirability, self-interest, and lack of awareness / information (e.g. about UNICEF funded activities). Strategies adopted by the research team to mitigate positive response bias included asking probing questions, conducting complementary informal interviews and observation, and triangulation of information among different respondents including respondents (family members) who reportedly did not directly profit from the ECM Flagship.

Finally, limited availability, reliability, and validity of secondary quantitative data also has an effect on the extent of **external validity** for overall evaluation which remains predominantly qualitative: Qualitative findings are often difficult to generalise and to apply to or compare with other situations as a small, non-random, purposeful sample is selected precisely because we wish to understand a particular individual in-depth, rather than finding out what is generally true for many. We deal with the limitations of qualitative research for external validity by introducing the notion of transferability (Lincoln et al., 2011) in which the “burden of proof lies less with the original investigator than with the person seeking to make an application elsewhere. The original inquirer cannot know the sites to which transferability might be sought, but the applier can and does” (p.298).



## 6. FINDINGS

In this section we present the evaluation's findings on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the ECM Flagship Result Programme. Findings are based on the EQs drafted for each of the four evaluation criteria (see Annex II).

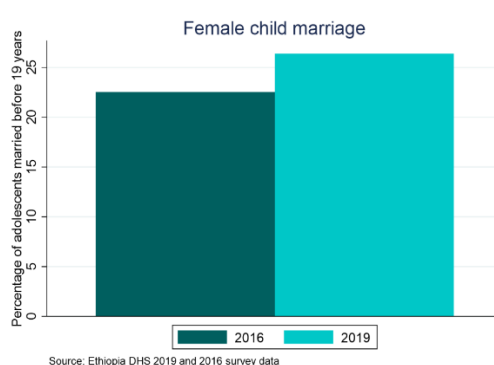
### 6.1. Relevance

Evaluating the relevance of a programme helps to assess how clearly a programme's goals and implementation are aligned with target groups and stakeholder needs, and the priorities underpinning the intervention (OECD, 2021). In this section, we outline to what extent the ECM Flagship programme design addresses vulnerabilities of girls towards child marriage (EQ 1.1), and how well it responds to the needs and priorities of the communities in which the girls live (EQ 1.2). We also present to what extent the programme is aligned with priorities and commitments of UNICEF (EQ 1.3) and its government partners (EQ 1.2).

#### Addressing Needs of Girls and Their Communities

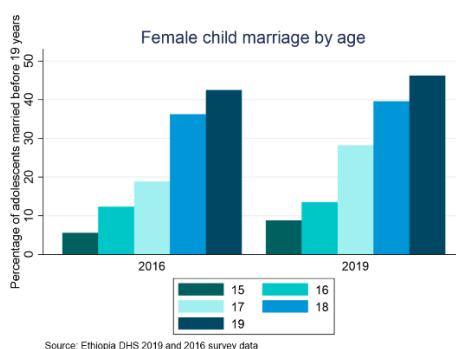
ECM was chosen as a Flagship in Ethiopia given its relatively high prevalence of child marriage. Figure 2 shows the overall incidence of child marriage among adolescents aged 15 to 19 at a national level, which is around 24%. Between 2016 and 2019, we observe a slight increase in the reported child marriage incidence among female adolescents.

*Figure 2. Incidence of child marriage among female adolescents (15-19 years)*



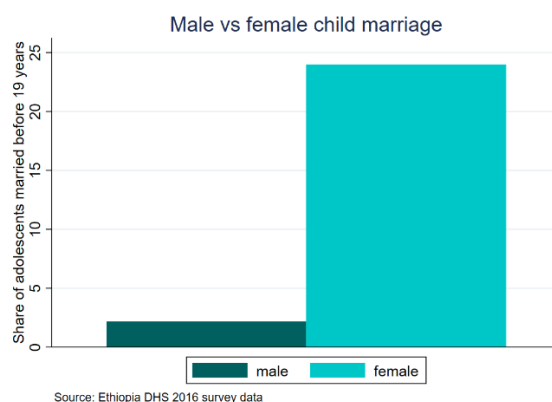
In terms of age differences, Figure 3 points out that the proportion of married adolescents increases with age, as expected. Below 18, however, this share is generally lower than 20% (and as low as 5% at age 15).

*Figure 3. Incidence of child marriage among female adolescents by age*



In comparison, in the smaller male sample, as shown in Figure 4, data shows roughly 2.3% of child marriages cases among male adolescents aged 15-19.

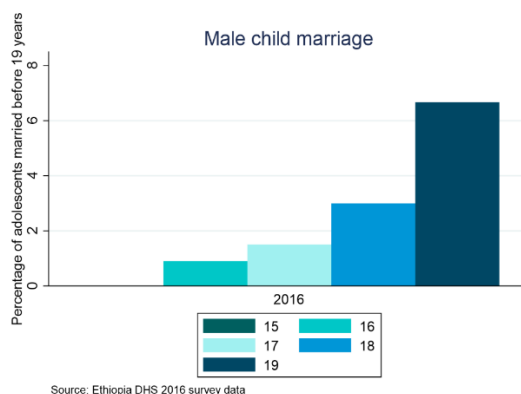
*Figure 4. Incidence of child marriage among male vs female adolescents (15-19 years)*



One can have a better understanding of this group of individuals when looking at the age distribution in

Figure 5. Here, no 15-year-old adolescent reports being (ever-)married. However, the percentage steadily increases as they get older, reaching approximately 7% at the age of 19. Given that the adolescent male sample within the 2016 DHS is within the low hundreds, one might want to be particularly cautious when interpreting such numbers from a statistical point of view.

*Figure 5. Incidence of child marriage among male adolescents by age*



A sound analysis of needs and context which informs the design of a programme as well as its ability to evolve and adapt over time according to the identified, evolving needs of rights holders is crucial to assess to what extent a programme responds to the needs of its target group (OECD, 2021). For identifying needs and vulnerabilities of ECM Flagship participants, key informants confirmed that the ECM Flagship relied heavily on **pre-existing (needs) assessments** and evaluations, e.g., from the ECM Programme and other national and international secondary data. Respondents clarified that no localised, community-based needs assessments were conducted during the ECM Flagship planning phase to inform the design of the programme, and that existing secondary data had gaps and shortcomings. While identification of needs during the planning and design phase of the ECM Flagship had its limitations (relying on secondary and more macro-level data), our research still found that programmes associated with ECM Flagship had **feedback**



**mechanisms** in place which allowed for a continuous adaptation of activities to better suit participants' needs.

*We have to do real behavioural analysis at community level using techniques how communities understand what the thinking behind menstruation and child marriage is, not only KAP [Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Survey Model] or [other] surveys. We need to have a longer period with real behavioural analysis. (UNICEF country office staff)*

*We make changes based on feedback, for example based on the feedback from the government and facilitators and community members we are now changing the community conversation manual. Previously it was only on increasing knowledge, it was not enough focus on behavioural action, now it includes gender, empowerment and more [...]. It [community conversations] used to be mixed groups, adults, children, women, men. Now we say lets have separate groups for girls, boys, adults and then they come together for intergenerational discussions. (UNICEF country office staff)*

As summarised in section 1, reasons for child marriage are multifaceted and interrelated. Interviewed respondents confirmed that activities included in the ECM Flagship design **tackled many of the known drivers** of child marriage. Programme activities tackled lack of awareness on harmful practices, lack of empowerment of girls as decision makers in marriage, lack of gender equality / equity among communities, lack of education and enrolment in schools, lack of community-led preventive / punitive action to combat early child marriage, lack of awareness on legal ramifications of early child marriage, and lack of enabling environment (e.g., at schools).

**Interlinkages and synergies of drivers and barriers** of child marriage were equally considered in the ECM Flagship design, and the programme emphasised multisectoral cooperation and response of sectors involved in its collective impact approach. However, during the actual implementation of the ECM Flagship the activities from different sector programmes reportedly rarely converged (see findings section 6.2 and 6.3). Accordingly, certain programme outputs which are meant to weaken drivers of child marriage such as provision separate toilets, water, menstruation pads & recovery rooms at schools were only available in some kebeles and absent in others.

Findings also show that several **factors** which contribute to child marriage were **not considered** in the ECM Flagship design. Re-occurring and protracted emergencies, mainly drought and conflict, reportedly have a major effect on communities in many of the programme's catchment areas, increasing child marriage. Interviewed respondents explained how drought and conflict led to economic hardship, which in turn led or can lead to child marriage. Implementers reported that for some, drought and conflict led to re-location) outside of the programme's catchment areas. This meant programme participants dropped-out of school, gender clubs and community conversations and moved to neighbouring areas and communities, many of which were not covered by the ECM Flagship. Several girls who did not re-locate also reported how drought led them to temporarily miss school, as they had to fetch water from increasingly faraway places.

Economic hardship was also identified as a major driver for child marriage, which was not considered in the ECM Flagship design. Beyond being a negative coping mechanism for shocks such as drought and conflict, child marriage was considered by many respondents a standard practice to improve the economic situation of families and girls themselves.

Findings also indicate that the ECM Flagship was not always able to respond to **differentiated needs** and interests of their programme participants. This was observed for awareness raising activities for ever married girls, girls with disabilities and men. We found that messaging of

training material was tailored to match needs and vulnerabilities of unmarried girls who were vulnerable to child marriage. Accordingly, some married and divorced girls stated that they would appreciate training sessions on proper caretaking of children and one girl with disability who believed she could never get married stated she would appreciate learning what she could accomplish with her abilities.

Apart from training contents, we also found that the ECM Flagship could improve its inclusiveness for girls with disabilities. Inclusiveness is partially considered in the programme design and implementation. On the one hand, the programme design acknowledges (some) needs and vulnerabilities of girls with disabilities, and disaggregated reporting. We also found that there was awareness among UNICEF staff on needs and vulnerabilities of girls with disabilities, and programme staff also reported that they advocated with governmental implementing partners for the inclusion of girls with disabilities. On the other hand, the ECM Flagship does not consider disability-inclusive budgeting, and we observed that lack of accessibility to and reasonable accommodation at the programme activities hindered girls with more severe disabilities from access to and meaningful participation at girls / gender clubs. We also found that there is a misconception among some UNICEF and implementing staff that other (non-governmental) actors already “take care” of girls with disabilities in programmes which specifically provide services to children with disabilities.

Different respondents from different regions also emphasised the attitudes of men were the hardest to change in their communities. This may be explained by how messaging was tailored. We found that awareness raising activities on ECM mainly focused on the negative consequences of child marriage on girls and did not challenge some of the underlying cultural norms and societal beliefs leading to child marriage (e.g., value of girls’ virginity - see also findings section 6.4). By doing so, envisaged social behavioural change of men seems to be mainly based on the assumption that men would be willing to put the interest of the girls above their own self-interests.

While some programme participants and implementers felt the need to increase the frequency of trainings, most found the amount and frequency of trainings to be sufficient. Apart from suggestions by married / divorced girls and girls with disabilities mentioned above, the vast majority of respondents deemed the training content adequate and had no suggestions for alteration.

**Additional support activities** which were not considered by the ECM Flagship but requested by programme participants and implementers were the establishment / provision of (safe) spaces (meeting halls, buildings) for holding out-of-school girls clubs and community dialogue sessions, provision of school material and support of feeding programmes at schools, as well as establishment of safe spaces to temporarily shelter girls and women who face the threat of child marriage or other forms of (gender based) violence.

### Alignment with Governmental and UNICEF Priorities

Primary and secondary data show that there has been a persistent **commitment of the Ethiopian government** to end child marriage for many years. The laws and policy framework of the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia strongly support the elimination of child marriage. Thus, the country has ratified many international and regional human rights instruments and incorporated their provisions into its laws including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women , 2011), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN Committee

on the Rights of the Child, 2015), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (OAU, 1981) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (OAU, 1990), which consider child marriage as a human rights violations. Since the early 1990s, Ethiopia has seen substantial progress regarding legislation and policy for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Two major initiatives of relevance to our focus on child marriage were the incorporation of 'women's rights' and 'child protection' issues in the 1994 Constitution of Ethiopia and the development of the 1993 National Policy on Women. The Constitution served as the umbrella for all laws and policies in Ethiopia, whereas the National Policy on Women aimed to create appropriate structures within government offices and institutions to establish equitable and gender-sensitive public policies.

To address the elimination of child marriage, the two core reference documents are: Revised Family Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Federal Negarit Gazetta of the Federal and of Ethiopia, 2000) and the Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2004. The law of increasing the age from 15 years to 18 years at the time of marriage applied to all marriages, including customary and religious marriages, and did not make exceptions for parental consent. Enforcement of such laws weakens the customary or religious law, parental consent, and exceptional circumstances that create chances for the marriage of children. In 2004, arranging the marriage of a child under 13 was named a criminal act, punishable by up to seven years in prison. In 2005, Ethiopia added sanctions in amendments to the Criminal Code that imposed maximum prison sentences and fines for involvement in the marriage of a child bride (Gage, 2013). Overall, the revised law aimed to improve the status of girls and women socially and economically in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has many other policies and action plans intended to eliminate child marriage entirely. In August 2013, the government of Ethiopia launched the National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children in Ethiopia formulated by the MoWSA. The overall objective of the strategy is to institutionalise national, regional and grassroots level mechanisms by creating an enabling environment for the prevention and elimination of all forms of Harmful Traditional Practices, and to ensure that multi-sectoral mechanisms are available to support women and children through prevention, protection and provision/responsive services.

In 2014, the Ethiopian government committed to eradicating child marriage and FGM/C at the Girl Summit in London. Later in 2015, the National Girl Summit was held in Ethiopia that focused to raise the national budget allocation by 10 per cent to realise the total abandonment of ending child marriage and FGM/C (MoWCY, 2019). The government of Ethiopia also chairs the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and FGM/C (established in 2013 and led by the MoWCY), the coordinating body of national efforts to eradicate child marriage. It is one among the 12 countries that are executing the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in collaboration with UNICEF and United Nations Population Fund. Further, the National Social Protection Strategy of Ethiopia 2016 targets adolescent girls "to maximise impacts on educational outcomes and reduction in child marriage" and plans communication and awareness-raising for prevention of abuse, violence, neglect, and exploitation, including child marriage and FGM/C (MoWCY, 2019).

More recently, in 2019, the MoWSA launched the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C. Interviews with ECM Flagship implementers further showed that the awareness on and ownership of the roadmap has trickled down to regional and woreda level implementers who regularly report against the national roadmap and the ECM Flagship targets. Furthermore, ECM

Flagship documents and interviewed UNICEF staff show how the ECM Flagship and associated programmes aim to capacitate the government and hold the government accountable to fulfil its commitment to end child marriage (see findings EQ 4.3 section 6.4).

Nonetheless, our findings show that the **prioritisation of ECM by the government** is and can be **undermined** by several factors outside of the sphere of influence of UNICEF. Fulfilment of governmental commitments is heavily dependent on available resources. In addition to a general scarcity of resources which apparently limit government capacities, emergencies such as drought and conflict reportedly have pushed the government to re-allocate ECM resources to emergency response activities. In addition, ownership of efforts to end child marriage heavily depend on individual commitments of frequently changing regional and woreda level heads of bureaus.

Our analysis of UNICEF policies and programmes confirms that the ECM Flagship is firmly rooted in and **aligned with UNICEF's national and global priorities** to end child marriage. As depicted in section 1, the ECM Flagship is informed by the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (2020- 2023) and contributes to achieving the UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3 (Every child is protected from violence and exploitation). Furthermore, the ECM Flagship aims to combine existing UNICEF interventions in the sectors of CP, education, WASH, SBC, health, nutrition, gender-based violence in emergencies, social protection, and communication.

However, whereas prioritisation on a policy level can be clearly established, the commitment to and **ownership** of the programme by **UNICEF national leadership and implementing staff** is less clear. Interviews with UNICEF staff showed that almost all agreed on the importance of ECM for UNICEF. However, while most UNICEF staff felt the prioritisation of ECM as part of a flagship was justified, some staff were concerned that focusing on ECM (and other Flagships) unfairly deprioritised other equally important topics. Almost all staff agreed with the importance of multisectoral convergence and multisectoral cooperation. At the same time, all staff acknowledged the difficulty of implementing the ECM Flagships implementation, without a dedicated budget and integrated planning. Many saw this as a major obstacle which prevented the ECM Flagship from achieving its objectives, and ultimately set it up for failure. We found that fluctuating and varying commitments among UNICEF leadership and staff affected programme implementation (see also section 6.2) and led the organisation to consider prematurely ending the ECM Flagship Result Programme.<sup>14</sup>

*"HQ [UNICEF country office] was not very consistent – sometimes there was a hard push, back then it was on the management agenda. Then, everything was dropped, and nobody talks about Flagships any more. (UNICEF field office staff)"*

## 6.2. Efficiency

Evaluating the efficiency of a programme aims to assess whether its resources can be justified by its results. Moreover, it is important to determine to what extent the programme delivered results in an economical and timely manner (OECD, 2021). In this section we first explore to what extent the ECM Flagship has facilitated linkages and synergies, both between the different sections and programmes of UNICEF Ethiopia, which contribute to ECM and between the different Ministries and Bureaus of the ECM Flagship's government implementing partner (EQ 2.1). We then analyse to what extent the outputs of the ECM flagship are likely to be achieved with the allocated amount

<sup>14</sup> At the time of writing the report discussions are ongoing and no final decision has been taken whether to continue or terminate the Flagship Programmes.

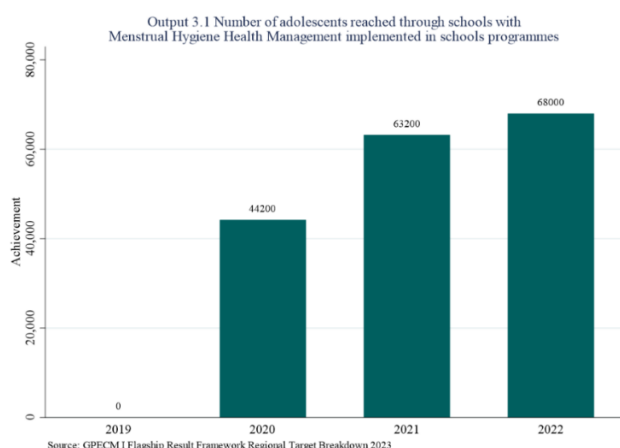
of resources (funds, expertise, time, procedures, rules and regulations) and identify barriers for efficient programme implementation (EQ 2.2). Finally, we assess the robustness of the ECM Flagship's Monitoring Mechanism and identify strengths and weaknesses of the existing M&E Framework (EQ 2.3).

## Facilitation of Cross-Sectoral Linkages and Synergies

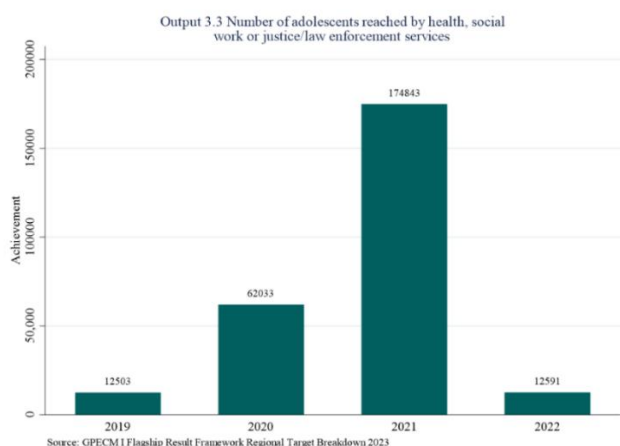
The ECM Flagship's ToC identifies the unique contributions and synergies between the various UNICEF sectors involved in its collective impact approach. An underlying assumption of collective impact is that activities in the programme's catchment areas actually converge and that programme participants benefit from multiple exposure to outputs from different sectors. This section elaborates on the status quo of convergent programming within the ECM Flagship, identified barriers for convergent programming as well as other contributions the ECM Flagship had on utilisation of cross-sectoral linkages and synergies.

Within the ECM Flagship logframe, Output 3 indicators focus on service provision, the success of which relies on successful cross-sectoral linkages, and confluence between various stakeholders. When examining the achievements for various Output 3 indicators, all six indicators, where data was provided, show outreach with beneficiaries was successful (although not always as per targets). Two such indicators are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7.

*Figure 6. Output 3 level indicators over years- Indicator 3.1*



*Figure 7. Output 3 level indicators over years- Indicator 3.3*





## Acceleration of Convergent Programming

According to interviewed UNICEF staff, convergence of interventions from multiple sectors could be achieved in only a few woredas of the targeted areas of the ECM Flagship. Staff also emphasised that no planning and monitoring systems were in place to assess whether any convergence took place on kebele level, which leaves the ECM Flagship without evidence base for convergent programme implementation. Overall, there was a consensus among interviewed UNICEF staff of field offices that actual convergence of different sectors of different UNICEF interventions could not be reached by the ECM Flagship. Staff stated that overall (siloed) programme implementation as well as pre-existing cooperations between sectors remained unchanged since the introduction of the ECM Flagship (with the exception of occasional small-scale efforts to try to reach convergence).

*What we haven't understood is what is new when we rename it [the programme] under the flagship? We are doing what we have been doing in the past. [...] It [ECM interventions] will continue to be one of our big objectives, whether it is flagship or not. I think it just creates a buzz when you say 'flagship'. Even if they [UNICEF country office] decide to leave the flagship, the work will still go on. The only change will be the name. (UNICEF field office staff)*

Interviewed UNICEF staff identified several **factors which hindered convergent programme implementation** within the ECM Flagship:

- **Lack of budget:** expectations that the different UNICEF Flagships would attract more funding did not come true so that until now the ECM Flagship could not mobilise additional funds to set up convergent interventions.
- **Lack of integrated planning, monitoring and reporting:** The ECM Flagship did not consider conducting integrated needs assessments, integrated programme planning and budgeting as well as integrated monitoring and reporting. Instead, the ECM Flagship had to rely on structures of existing programmes from different sectors which were already funded by different donors. Consequently, there were also no mechanisms in place or set up to track and measure effects of convergent programme implementation as part of the ECM Flagship. As UNICEF staff explained:

*"We have a formal process in which UNICEF works. We have country programmes, rolling work plans. Superimposing the Flagships was complicated. The Country Programme has six separate components, so six programme areas. Do we do 4 more formal programmes [for the additional four Flagships] and do them 10 programmes? But we did not do that, we already had work plans, how do we integrate those? It was not done properly. (UNICEF country office staff)*

*I do not think this [convergent programming] will happen in the future. Conceptually it [the ECM Flagship] is fine, but it lacks the practical execution. We are all concentrating on our workplans, Flagship is a concept, but the implementation structure is missing. Other workplans are controlled by other bureaus under other sections, if we ask education sectors they say 'I have no budget – I have to concentrate on my workplan'. We need to be one programme. (UNICEF field office staff)*

- **Divergent priorities of different sectors and donors:** It was emphasised that existing programmes which made up the ECM Flagship had different prioritisations based on (at times) diverging sectoral needs. In addition, programmes often had pre-existing commitments to certain areas of intervention with donors and implementers to whom they were accountable.

- **Divergent priorities of implementing partner:** It was also emphasised that alignment with interests of governmental partners was a challenge when selecting woredas / kebeles for interventions. Whereas UNICEF tended to prioritise areas with the highest need (that is, prevalence of child marriage), the government tended to be interested in equal distribution of resources among all woredas / kebeles.

### **Increase in awareness and exchange**

While the ECM Flagship reportedly did not have any significant effect on accelerating convergent programming within UNICEF, interviewed staff reported moderate effects of the Flagship on increased awareness and exchange within the organisation. The arguably most prominent effect which could be identified by our research was an increase of awareness of UNICEF staff on sectors beyond “their own” and awareness on how different sectors’ contribute to ECM.

Findings also suggest that the ECM Flagship contributed to some extent to increased cooperation among staff. While activity implementation on the ground reportedly remained unchanged, several staff emphasised that exchange and sharing information between sectors increased. Some staff appreciated this intensified exchange, while others believed that coordination meetings were too time-consuming and lacked concrete outcomes. Staff also noticed that exchange had significantly decreased since the change in leadership at UNICEF Ethiopia country office.

Effects of the ECM Flagship on increased awareness and exchange among implementers, on the other hand, could not be established. This can primarily be attributed to the lack of awareness on the ECM Flagship, which among implementing partners seemed to be practically non-existent. As one UNICEF staff explained:

*There is no awareness of the government. They wonder ‘what is Flagship?’ There is no Flagship from their side, there is just workplans. (UNICEF field office staff)*

What could be established, however, was that coordination and exchange meetings between bureaus contributing to ECM on regional and woreda level had increased throughout the last two years and – at the time of the interviews – were held regularly. This increased coordination and exchange seemed to be driven by the (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the) UNICEF ECM Programme and the National Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C.

### **Utilisation of Resources**

Interviewed UNICEF staff reported that, overall, ECM Flagship Result programme activities could be implemented **in time and with the budgeted resources**. Interviewed implementing partners frequently flagged a lack of funds. However, this almost always related to requesting funds for expanding existing activities or adding additional activities to combat child marriage more effectively, and not to a lack of funds to fulfil agreed upon deliverables.

From the point of view of a **cost effectiveness**, we use the BER approach as stated in section 3.3. In order to calculate the output/input ratio, we divided the number of beneficiaries (marked as achievement in the log frame), against the expenditure, for each of the output indicators. Therefore we estimated the cost per person for the 10 output indicators, as well as the overall programme (i.e. the overall outcome indicator).

It can be said that the ECM Flagship programme is comprised of activities with a wide range of expenditures per person or participant. As shown by the cumulative values up to 2022 in

Table 1, the per capita expenditure of output 2.2 is the lowest (0.03 USD), while output 3.4 is by far the greatest (442 USD). However, the very large cost per beneficiary is explained by the small number under achievement (248 health workers that were capacitated). The overall cost per person of the ECM Flagship is around 1.1 USD. This – according to UNICEF - falls well within the value for money ratio within UNICEF programming and can therefore be considered to have an efficient utilization of resource.<sup>15</sup> However, there are two identifiable risks to this calculation- with the numerator (overall expenditure) and the denominator (overall achievement). Since the detailed costs for implementation per indicator are not provided, one may assume that the actual costs are higher (such as when including the opportunity costs of the staff working in the program). With more accurate data on costs (including the programme components under the government, the overall expenditure figure may be inflated. Secondly, since the current number under “achievement” may be inflated by double counting of certain adolescents, parents and other community members, this number may reduce for the overall achievement of the ECM flagship as well. Therefore, with the actual reduced number, removing double counting, we would arrive at a total number of beneficiaries that is smaller, increasing the overall costs per beneficiary ratio.

*Table 1. Cost effectiveness -cost per person – for outcome 1 and its outputs (cumulative values from 2020 up to 2022)*

Indicator	Overall Achievement	Overall Expenditure	Cost per person
<b>Overall ECM Flagship- Outcome 1</b>	<b>7755209</b>	<b>8524127</b>	<b>1.099149</b>
Output 1.1 Number of adolescents that have participated in UNICEF-supported skills development programmes	314714	816445.6	2.594246
Output 1.2 Number of adolescent girls who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions	171070	1130620	6.609107
Output 2.1 Number of people participating in community engagement and behaviour change interventions	1265223	1235506	0.976513
Output 2.2 Number of individuals reached through media programmes on key protective behaviours and access to services	4243428	130823.9	0.03083
Output 3.1 Number of adolescents reached through schools with Menstrual Hygiene Health Management implemented in schools programmes	175400	2661300	15.17275
Output 3.2 Number of marginalised girls supported for school enrolment and retention	12677	28000	2.208724
Output 3.3 Number of adolescents reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services	249467	833525.6	3.341226
Output 3.4 Number of health workers capacitated to provide gender responsive health services for adolescents	248	109584.8	441.874
Output 3.5 Number of adolescent receiving nutrition services with UNICEF support	318566	1478321	4.640549
Output 3.6 Number of PSNP Clients attending SBC sessions that include preventative messaging on ending child marriage	1004416	100000	0.09956

<sup>15</sup> Further comparison with similar interventions was not possible as the programme is unique within Ethiopia and data was not available for comparable programs from other countries.



The cost effectiveness analysis in the report is rather rudimentary and suffers from several limitations. Overall, the expenditure data that was shared was only available at the national level, such that regional analysis was not possible. Moreover, the expenditures were provided in an aggregated manner, without any clear line items, not even at the level of fixed and variable costs. Finally, from the outset UNICEF was clear that the expenditures were taken from several sources, and may be including expenditures on other programmes, therefore inflating the costs per person. However, similar to the expenditures, also the beneficiaries are not clearly attributable only to the funds contributing to the ECM Flagship, implying that beneficiaries come from a variety of existing interventions (and their provisions). Finally, given the variety of sources from which the expenditure data was generated, the currency exchange rates are not clearly defined (nominal or real, constant or in purchasing parity dollars (PPP) dollars), all of which affects the validity of the results. Some of the reasons for the low quality of expenditure data were made explicit by key informants.

During qualitative interviews, UNICEF and implementing partner respondents identified a number of barriers for efficient programme implementation, which can be linked to funds, procedures, rules and regulations and other external factors:

- **Budget constraints** on implementing partner side did not only influence the effectiveness of ECM Flagship supported activities (see section 6.3), it also had an effect on (timely) delivery of activities. One prominent complaint raised by implementing partners was the lack of resources for transportation. Respondents underlined how coordinators and facilitators at times had to walk for hours to reach targeted kebeles or how they had to spend money from their own pockets to use public transportation.
- **Lack of commitment of community coordinators** was also reported by respondents from different regions as an occasional challenge. This at times lead to delays of training sessions. Lack of commitment was reportedly linked to the fact that community members were not financially compensated for their efforts and had to split their time across a number of programmes, campaigns and activities.
- **Lack of information** on the ECM Flagship (roll out and implementation) was at times challenging for both UNICEF and implementing partner staff. Some UNICEF staff criticised not having been involved during the conceptualisation of the ECM Flagship, others criticised that the programme did not consider adequate plans for roll-out and implementation. Similarly, not all partners felt informed enough about ECM Flagship activities. This reportedly led to confusion and misunderstandings and – at times – duplication of efforts.

*It is a very confusing programme. Since its beginning we have always been confused [...] are we doing our regular programme or is it a separate one? We are still confused. (UNICEF field office staff)*

This confusion could be traced back to both lack of coordination and exchange between regional and woreda level bureaus on partner side, as well as UNICEF's practice to prioritise cooperation with regional level implementers over woreda level implementers. One partner also insinuated that too many funds would be kept by implementers at regional level and that not enough funds were passed on to woreda level bureaus. Despite some discontent among

interviewed implementers, it needs to be pointed out that most implementing partner respondents stated that they were overall content with the coordination modalities and information management with UNICEF.

- **Double reporting** of activities and achievements was also raised by many UNICEF staff. Several staff questioned the ethicality of reporting the same outputs and outcomes to different programmes. Only a few questioned the time-efficiency of having to do repeat reporting on the same activities for the ECM Flagship and other country programmes.
- **Frequent staff turnover** and lack of commitment of individual staff from implementer side - particularly for politically nominated positions - was also raised as a factor undermining time-efficient and effective implementation of programme activities.

*We provide trainings. The challenge we have is that after six months 50% [of trained staff] has moved to other places. In particular heads of sectors [at governmental Bureaus] are appointed and move on soon. It is my third year here, and we have had maybe six heads [at the regional Bureau of Women and Children Affairs]. (UNICEF field office staff)*

- **Delays in release of funds** was also mentioned by several implementers as a challenge for timely implementation of programme activities. Delays seem to be an effect of both UNICEF and governmental structures and procedures: UNICEF transfers funds to one regional bureau (such as the BoWSA) for multiple kebeles and sometimes multiple UNICEF programmes. UNICEF also has regulations and procedures in place to withhold transfers in case of underperformance of partners. Accordingly, it reportedly happened in the past that well-performing kebeles from one programme were “punished” because of poorly performing kebeles of another programme. Similarly, it was also reported that delays of transfers from regional to woreda level were caused by regional bureaus of the implementing partner.
- **Structural gaps** at implementing partner side at kebele level was also reported as a barrier to implement programme activities efficiently and effectively. This reportedly constituted a challenge especially for remote areas. One example which was raised during the interviews was that BoWSA did not have a presence at kebele level, which reportedly made planning coordination, monitoring and reporting of programme activities more challenging.
- Finally, several external factors were identified as barriers for efficient programme implementation. **Lack of safety and security** for programme staff at times led implementing partners to postpone or abandon delivering programme activities in certain kebeles and forced UNICEF staff to revert to hiring third-party monitors to backstop programme activities. Humanitarian response to **emergencies** (mainly drought and conflict) reportedly also pulled financial and human resources away from “regular” programmes within UNICEF and governmental partners.

### Monitoring Mechanisms

Review of programme documents and interviews with UNICEF and implementing staff showed that - despite lacking its own implementation structure - the ECM Flagship managed to set up a robust monitoring framework which was superimposed over the implementation and monitoring and reporting structures of the different UNICEF programmes which make up the ECM Flagship. By doing so, we found that the ECM Flagship had to cope with a number of inherent weaknesses and limitations:

- **No monitoring of convergence:** as previously noted, by depending on monitoring data of existing programmes, the ECM Flagship was not able to trace convergent implementation of activities from different sectors & programmes, neither related to the programme's catchment areas (kebeles) nor to the target group (no systems to measure multiple exposure of programme participants to different sectoral activities). Consequently, the ECM Flagship was also not able to measure effects of convergent programme implementation and compare those to outcomes in areas and among programme participants that did not profit from convergent activity implementation.

*My main worry is, even if you are contributing in one woreda that different sectors collaborate, we are not reaching the same people. (UNICEF field office staff)*

- **Lack of disaggregated data:** The reporting was stilted when disaggregating the national aggregates to a more regional level. For instance, in the case of at least two indicators, the regional achievements could not be reported, either at all or for particular regions. Moreover, for a deeper analysis of well performing regions, the more disaggregated the data, the better the understanding of progress and lapses. In the case of the ECM Flagship, the lack of information below the regional level implies that programme staff may not understand where issues in implementation and overall programme efficiency may be stemming from.
- **Lack of awareness on ECM Flagship among programme staff:** Awareness and ownership among UNICEF staff reportedly remained focused on their "own" sectoral programmes and reporting to the ECM Flagship was considered by many staff an inconvenience and duplication of efforts. Awareness of the ECM Flagship among governmental implementing partners was almost non-existent (see findings section 6.2).

Other weaknesses we identified within the ECM M&E framework are:

- **Inconsistencies between the ToC and the logframe:** We found that the ToC and the logframe of the ECM Flagship are not fully aligned. We noticed, for example, an inconsistency between outputs and outcomes depicted in the ECM Flagship's ToC compared to the Flagship's logframe. The ToC depicts three intermediate outcomes, six immediate outcomes and six outputs whereas the logframe depicts one outcome and four outputs.
- **Limited monitoring of outcomes:** As explained above, the design of the ECM Flagship's ToC envisions a multitude of immediate and intermediate outcomes. However, most of those outcomes are not tracked and measured within the programme's M&E Framework. Consequently, a common complaint among both interviewed UNICEF and government staff was that they were lacking data beyond anecdotal evidence on the effectiveness of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes.
- **Incomplete and unreliable monitoring data:** As depicted under section 5 (limitations), we found that monitoring data analysed for the purpose of this evaluation was at times incomplete and unreliable. Some reported achievements in the different versions of the document "GPECM Flagship Result Framework Regional Target Breakdown" appeared to be illogical, some implausible, some mathematically incorrect, and some data was missing. For instance, the indicator "Number of individuals reached through media programmes with messaging on key protective behaviours and access to services" has the highest value during the baseline year of 2019 but has no information on target, expenditure and individuals reached with this activity for 2020. Naturally, analyses are hindered by missing or

inconsistencies in data, which is necessarily accompanied by a lower trust in the results-based framework adopted under this flagship programme, and the implementation logic of the teams.

- **Lack of baseline data and/or targets:** We noted that some indicators do not have baseline value. Along with some missing information on targeted numbers, it can be said that potentially there was a lack of planning before launching some of the activities. It is unclear how the targets for all years have been set without any baseline, and at which number they are considered as met. If the overall goals have not been defined (or add up to yearly targets) these targets may be set incorrectly. The missing information implies that often teams are working without prior knowledge and clear planning on how to achieve targets, and where they currently stand. For instance, this is the case for the following indicators “Number of individuals reached through media programmes with messaging on key protective behaviours and access to services”.

Beyond the ECM Flagship, we also identified several strengths and weaknesses of UNICEF Ethiopia’s M&E System which seem to apply to all programmes including the ECM Flagship. While interviews with UNICEF staff showed that UNICEF Ethiopia has a comprehensive M&E system and that UNICEF programme staff adhere to standardised regulations and operating procedures related to programme monitoring and reporting. We also identified some weaknesses and limitations within the UNICEF structure linked to M&E (some of which may explain weaknesses and limitations of the ECM Flagship):

- **limited resources at UNICEF field offices:** Limited human resources for in-depth monitoring and capacity development was frequently mentioned by field office staff as a challenge for programme implementation. This was particularly true for emergency situations when staff reportedly spent a significant amount of time on implementing humanitarian response interventions.

*It [ECM Flagship implementation] is difficult because for the last two years we have directed 80% of our resources to the emergency work. (UNICEF field office staff)*

- **Limited M&E capacities of implementing partner:** Having limited human resources available for backstopping and monitoring of programme implementation means UNICEF has to heavily rely on M&E capacities of its main implementing partner: the Ethiopian government. This means the ECM Flagship’s data collection instruments, methods, frequency, and quality of data are highly dependent on existing governmental structures and existing government capacities. However, interviews with both UNICEF staff and government implementers showed that despite capacity development efforts of UNICEF and despite considerable improvements, technical and financial capacities for M&E among implementing partners was still limited. This could be observed, for example, in the reporting of inconsistent figures for the same achievement by different bureaus, differences in data management and data storage (in some woredas systematically collected and filed reporting documents were available, in others not. Much reporting was paper based or limited to reporting via WhatsApp.) and differences in means of verification (e.g. most girls clubs had attendance lists, some did not).
- **Availability of documents:** Assumedly related to limited capacities of UNICEF field office and implementing partner staff is the limited availability of programme documents. Means of verification of programme indicators were reportedly not stored at UNICEF field offices and

only inconsistently and unsystematically stored at partner offices at regional and woreda level. This leaves verification of reports to (rare) spot checks of UNICEF staff during field visits and creates challenges for systematic analysis of programme data for M&Es beyond the set (aggregated) figures which are regularly reported against target indicators.

- **Focus on output data:** The focus on output data was not only identified within the ECM Flagship's M&E Framework. The evaluation team could also observe a general reluctance among UNICEF and implementing partner staff to commit to programme targets which were not under their direct control.

### 6.3. Effectiveness

Evaluating effectiveness means assessing to what extent a programme achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results, including any differential results across groups. Research is meant to not only provide insight into whether the programme has attained its planned results, but also the process by which this was done, which factors were decisive in this process and whether there were any unintended effects.

In this section we present to what extent the ECM Flagship has achieved its objective and outcomes so far. This includes assessing achievements within the targets of the ECM Flagship's logframe (see Annex VII) as well as programme effects (immediate and intermediate outcomes) which are specified in the programme's ToC (see Annex VI). The latter also includes effects on governmental systems and policies (EQ 3.2). Special attention is given to assessing effects of multi-sectoral convergence and contribution of individual UNICEF sections / sectors to increase girls' wellbeing and end child marriage within the framework of the ECM Flagship Result. Finally, the section also presents unexpected effects which were identified through our research.

#### Effects Within the Targets of the ECM Flagship

Considering the 10 different indicators shared within programming data, the targets were generally reached (and in many cases heavily overshoot). Therefore, it would appear that by 2025, the end result targets of the ECM Flagship would be feasible. However, Output indicators 3.2 and 3.4 were the least effective, where the targets were either not met (in any year) or were grossly exaggerated between two years within the logframe. Figure 8 and Figure 9 in Annex IV show the deviation from targets for both indicators.

As explained in previous sections, measuring programme outcomes as part of the ECM Flagship's M&E framework is limited to outcome 1 increased self-efficacy of girls (see logframe Annex VII). Reporting of the outcome was missing within the programme documents, where the source of this information was provided as the SBC baseline and endline. This implied that only the baseline value (of 27%) was known, while progress during the programme will be unknown (due to missing data collection of said indicator). Therefore, only at endline would the achievements within this outcome be clear. For improvements in programming, (at least) a midline survey of adolescents would have been beneficial to allow any course correction (if targets were not being met) in the programming, especially since the overall goal of the ECM Flagship is to nearly triple the baseline value of this outcome.

Qualitative interviews as well as observations by the research team, on the other hand, found that participating in ECM Flagship supported girls / gender clubs significantly increased girls' self-efficacy and confidence in their ability to negotiate and speak without fear and delay child marriage. As further elaborated below (under section 6.4), at times this change in self-efficacy had



life-altering impacts for girls who successfully convinced families to abandon concrete plans for child marriage.

### Effects Beyond the Targets of the ECM Flagship

#### Effects of multi-sectoral convergence and contribution of individual sectors

As explained in section 6.2 the ECM Flagship neither tracks convergence of outputs of UNICEF activities from different sectors, nor measures outcomes of convergent programming. Consequently, there is no robust evidence base for effects of convergent programming as part of the ECM Flagship. However, qualitative interviews of this evaluation did provide some evidence for the contribution of individual sectors to the girls' wellbeing, as well as some indications on interlinkages and cumulative effects:

Interviews showed that WASH and menstrual hygiene activities positively affected enrolment of adolescent girls in school. Similarly, interviews with out-of-school girls showed that SBC activities had a positive effect contributing to not only to a reported increase in plans to (re-) enrol in school, but also increased their actual (re-)enrolment.

On the other side, interviews with key informants and programme participants showed that the inclusion of WASH and health activities within the ECM Flagship was limited (see findings on convergence section 6.2). Interviews with programme participants did not provide evidence that UNICEF nutrition activities increased the wellbeing of girls. However, we mainly attribute this to the limited inclusion of nutrition activities within the ECM Flagship catchment areas, as well as a lack of awareness of programme participants about which activities were supported by UNICEF.

The three sectors CP, education and SBC had reportedly closely worked together for years and UNICEF programming had become increasingly integrated and convergent. However, as explained in section 6.3, this development cannot be attributed to the existence of the ECM Flagship as integrated programming already existed before the birth of the Flagships and regional UNICEF staff emphasised that the programme did overall not affect existing cooperation between those sectors.

*For SBC convergence and synergies with nutrition, WASH, child rights, inclusive breastfeeding, gender based violence, schooling - it was already there, it is already there as a default. (UNICEF country office staff)*

The WASH, health and nutrition sectors represent the sectors which the ECM Flagship was meant to integrate with the other sectors that had spearheaded ECM in the past. However, despite some anecdotal evidence of WASH and health activities improving lives of girls within the ECM Flagship, actual overlap and convergence remained limited (see section 6.2) and no robust evidence exists to establish the contribution of these three sectors to improving girls' wellbeing and ending child marriage.

Nonetheless, despite the limitation of the ECM Flagship design to measure the programme's effectiveness beyond increased self-efficacy of girls (see section 6.2), implementing partners regularly collected and reported data which can be considered proxy indicators for effects on child marriage.

- Increase in reporting of child marriage was considered by implementers as proxy for increased awareness and change in attitudes.

- At the same time, decrease of reported cases of child marriage was considered as a proxy for increased awareness and changes in attitudes of community members incl. health workers, religious leaders, teachers, as well as strengthened law enforcement systems.
- Increase of reported cases of child marriage as well as decrease of school-enrolment in ECM Flagship catchment areas which were affected by emergencies (drought, conflict) was considered a proxy for increased child marriage as negative coping mechanism in emergencies.
- Increase in school enrolment of girls was considered a proxy for effects of the ECM Flagship's awareness raising on gender equality and importance of education for girls, the availability of appropriate WASH in schools as well as a proxy for positive effects of the decrease of child marriage cases.

These findings (which also indicate circular reasoning and at times seemingly contradictory evidence and assumptions about attribution) not only exemplify the complexity of the subject matter but also demonstrate that data collection mechanisms of UNICEF and implementers are so far not robust enough to systematically and comprehensively provide evidence on the ECM Flagship's effect on school enrolment and child marriage.

### Barriers for Change

ECM Flagship programme staff and programme participants identified a number of barriers which undermined the effectiveness of the programme:

- Some respondents (implementers, community members,) doubted that UNICEF targeted number of programme participants were enough to **reach “critical mass” within** the community to change community attitudes and practices. Programme participants tended to show high awareness and negative attitudes towards child marriage, however, they also reported difficulties to convince other community members who had not been exposed to trainings. Several respondents recommended to increase the number of trainings.
- Some respondents emphasised that fear of **negative repercussions / threats to safety and security** by family members can prevent some community members and service providers from reporting and mobilising against (attempted) cases of early child marriage.
- Conducting **secret marriages** and marriages (and other harmful practices such as FGM/C) in neighbouring kebeles outside of the catchment area of the ECM Flagship were reported as mechanisms to successfully marry underage girls despite the existence of punitive legal and community-based mechanisms within the ECM Flagship catchment areas.
- In some areas, **absence of a regional family law** which punishes child marriage was reported as a hinderance to enforce federal laws and policies on child marriage.
- **Emergencies** such as drought and conflict reportedly undermined efforts by the ECM Flagship, caused people to move outside the programme's catchment area and were considered as reasons for an increase in reported child marriage in affected areas (see also section 6.1).

### Effects on Governmental Systems and Policies

As explained in section 6.2, the Ethiopian government has established laws, policies and systems to combat child marriage which have been initiated and revised throughout the last few decades. Similarly, UNICEF's (and other stakeholders') efforts to both capacitate and hold the government accountable towards ECM has been ongoing for many years. Considering that the ECM Flagship does not have its own funding and implementation structure, it is not possible to say that laws, policies and or governmental structures were adapted because of its establishment. It is possible that existing UNICEF programs would have had the same advocacy effects without the existence of the ECM Flagship.

Nonetheless, interviewed UNICEF staff from different programmes which contribute to the ECM Flagship were able to share many success stories of change, which the government had reportedly made because of their efforts. To name a few:

*One big change is that we established this technical working group, the MHH [Menstrual Health and Hygiene] task force under the president's office. We achieved zero taxation for raw material for menstrual hygiene. This was in 2018." (UNICEF country office staff)*

*We did advocacy workshops. One achievement is that BoWSA increased its budget by 20 % to fulfil the national roadmap. But due to droughts budgets were not implemented as promised." (UNICEF field office staff)*

We attribute these reported successes are not surprising considering to the strong focus (including time and resources) put by UNICEF on capacity development of its implementing partner (see also section 6.4). In addition, UNICEF programmes tend to have dedicated budgets and specific outputs related to advocacy activities (mainly meetings) towards the government. The ECM Flagship logframe dedicates two out of four outputs (output 3 and output 4 – see Annex VI) to capacitating and backstopping government partners in their efforts to end child marriage.

### Unintended Effects

Our research identified some positive effects of the ECM Flagship and associated activities which can be considered unintended. Unintended effects could be found on **increased community engagement** beyond the thematic focus of the programme. Several gender clubs also seemed to have introduced a form of **shared savings**, where girls either kept saved money for personal use or contributed to a communal savings pot for shared expenses.

*There are a lot of changes after community conversation started. For example, the community discussed and decided to give support for a water project here which extends the pipe canal from the Shabele river and the community is giving their labour force, working with them by taking part in digging the canal.[...]. Another change which came as result of community conversation is that the community organised and started working in farming activities and they will benefit from the product communally. What they produce will be distributed by percentage to all their members and this had played a great role in changing individual's livelihoods in our kebele. (Male family member, Somali region)*

Some adult community members also explained how they **changed (gendered) attitudes** and practices in their own marriages after having received trainings about gender equality and family planning as part of the community dialogue sessions. One female community member reported an increase of women's decision-making power when managing finances and more support by husbands when doing household chores. Another female community member reported how she started to use contraception for family planning after participating in UNICEF training sessions.

While our research did not identify any **unintended negative effects** of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes among programme participants and implementing partners, some risk



for negative unintended effects can still be deduced from our findings. As further elaborated in section 6.4, we found that girls who participated in ECM Flagship training sessions seem to be misinformed about problems at childbirth and (lack of) sexual desires among older adolescents. If girls gain experiences which contradict these types of (mis)information or misconceptions, girls may not trust UNICEF messages in the future or may believe their bodies and desires to be 'abnormal'. In addition, deciding to prematurely end a programme such as the ECM Flagship could have negative effects on the credibility of UNICEF and its adherence to publicly communicated commitments. One factor which makes this threat less likely is the fact that external communication on the ECM Flagship was limited and stakeholders (in particular, government partners) seem to be mostly unaware of the existence of the Flagship.

#### 6.4. Sustainability

Evaluating the sustainability of a programme is to assess the extent to which its net benefits continue or are likely to continue (OECD, 2021). The following section first examines to what extent SBC<sup>16</sup> could be observed in the programme's catchment areas and is likely to last beyond the programme duration (EQ 4.2). This includes findings on how the ECM Flagship and associated programmes contributed to changes in knowledge, attitudes, norms, beliefs and behaviours of individuals, their families and peers, and their communities as well as (individual, community-level and social/structural) barriers towards lasting SBC. We then examine the ECM Flagship's approach towards institutional sustainability and examine the institutional and financial capacities of the government partner which are needed to sustain the programme's net benefits over time (EQ 4.1 and 4.3).

#### Contribution to Social and Behaviour Changes

Interviews with programme participants identified a multitude of SBC that could be linked to the ECM Flagship and associated programmes. Participants of community dialogue sessions and girls/gender clubs demonstrated a clear increase in **knowledge and awareness** on child marriage and other harmful traditional practices incl. FGM/C, gender equality, sex education, family planning, and menstrual health and hygiene management. We also noticed that learnings on negative repercussions of child marriage seemed to applied to underage girls of all ages and without differentiation. However, several interviewed girls seem to have misconceptions about the (lack of) sexual desires of girls under 18 and about their bodies' "readiness" to bear children. As stated in section 6.3, we identified this as a risk for unintentional negative effects on girls' self-perception or girls' trust in UNICEF in case such (taught) beliefs clash with girls' lived experience. While those misconceptions can be traced back to teachings within the girls/gender clubs, it is not clear whether these resulted from training material messaging, interpretation and teachings of trainers, and/ or lack of differentiation and understanding on the side of the girls.

Interviews also revealed a multitude of changes in **attitudes, beliefs, norms, and practices** among programme participants and the broader community. First and foremost, we observed a significantly higher level of **self-efficacy** and self-confidence among girls who participated in girls

<sup>16</sup> Analysis of SBC was based on the Social Ecological Model which recognises four levels of influence that interact to affect behaviour: individual, family and peer networks, community and social/structural (Glanz & Bishop, 2010).

/ gender clubs compared to those who did not<sup>17</sup>. Increase in self-efficacy was also confirmed by UNICEF and implementer staff, community members and girls themselves.

For some girls, changes in attitudes and beliefs translated into **changed practices**. Several girls in Amhara and Oromia region reported to have successfully refused to be married by their family by sharing information from UNICEF trainings on negative repercussions of child marriage and standing up for their beliefs in front of their families. A few girls also recounted how they supported sisters and friends by reporting child marriage attempts. Some girls also explained how they learned to speak publicly and – together with their teachers – do awareness raising on child marriage and harmful traditions towards the broader community within the UNICEF Flagship programme.

Programme participants also reported that they themselves as well as the broader community had experienced **changes in attitudes towards harmful traditional practices** (including FGM/C and child marriage), and **gender equality**, and that those changes were linked to UNICEF trainings. However, FGDs with community members and service providers as well as IDIs with family members also found that such a shift in attitudes and beliefs had been slowly progressing over decades. Accordingly, UNICEF programmes including the ECM Flagship can only be considered one factor which contributed to such changes.

Gaps between changed beliefs and changed practices could be identified when analysing **SBC among boys** who had participated in the gender clubs. Despite reports about boys changing their attitudes about gender roles after participating in gender clubs, actual change in practice (e.g. taking over cooking and other household chores) was reportedly limited. Still, girls confirmed the importance of (perceived) changed attitudes among boys participating in the gender club to create a safe and enabling environment at school. This is why most interviewed girls preferred to have mixed-sex gender clubs.

When asked about their (negative) attitude towards child marriage, unmarried girls primarily focused on what they learned in the girls/gender clubs. In contrast, **married and divorced girls** tended to elaborate on their **own negative experiences** as reasons why they disapproved of child marriage. This indicates that personal experience is a stronger factor which affects girls' attitudes towards marriage than trainings provided by UNICEF. It also indicates that awareness raising within the ECM Flagship does not change attitudes of married / divorced girls towards marriage, as they already tend to have pre-existing negative attitudes. In addition, findings show that unmarried girls often approach their married / divorced peer to gain first-hand information about (child) marriage.

*Back then I felt nothing, but now I feel bad and regret when I see my friends in school. I couldn't continue school as my husband was not encouraging me. Back then I felt nothing but now I feel bad and regret when I see my friends in school. [...] Immediately after I got married, I have seen that child marriage is not good. Personally, I have no interest to stay in my marriage. (Married out of school girl, Oromia)*

Gender/girls clubs also seemed to have a significant effect on girls' **attitudes towards education**. It was found that many girls changed their attitudes about the importance of education after

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<sup>17</sup> Even though the sampling strategy excluded interviews with non-programme participants it occurred that several times FGD with girls also included non-participants. In those instances, stark differences in the behaviour of participants and non-participants could be observed: while non-participants were able to engage, speak out and look researchers in the eye, participating girls actively engaged in discussions, were outspoken and portrayed confidence. Such apparent differences in behaviour between girls/gender club participants and non-participants were also confirmed by UNICEF and implementing partner staff

joining the girls/gender clubs. For some, this resulted in improved performance at school, for others, it resulted in (plans for or actual) re-enrolment. Several girls also reported feeling more optimistic about creating longer term plans for the future – which seemed to be associated with their new long-term plans for education. It is also noteworthy that - despite awareness raising on family planning and gender equality (incl. sharing of household tasks) - girls and other community members continue to see education and marriage as mutually exclusive.

*“Frankly speaking, my daughter and [name of niece] didn't directly discuss marriage with me. However, I occasionally observe when they speak with their friends and I repeatedly tell them that I don't like to talk about marriage at this time; instead, you should prioritise your education unless you want to be illiterate and sweeping livestock manure. I even choose who they should be friends with and advise them not to waste their time getting married when they could use their education to find employment and make money.”* (Male family member, Oromia)

Some girls also reported to be **less aggressive** and having found **better coping mechanisms for anger management**. These changes could be attributed partially to learnings from life skills trainings of the girls/gender clubs and partially to out of school girls feeling more optimistic and less frustrated due to their plans to re-enrol.

Despite these many reported successes in changing attitudes, norms, and practices of programme participants and the community at large, respondents also identified **factors which can undermine experienced SBC** in the future: On the one hand, lack of changes in attitudes, norms and practices among family members and members of the broader community can constitute a barrier for girls to act upon their beliefs. Lack of support structures (e.g. lack of women's shelters, law enforcement mechanisms, proper water and sanitation at school, disability accessible venues etc.) had reportedly undermined programme participants' agency in changing (harmful) practices.

*In some regions budget itself is problematic. People have intentions to change, but the [governmental] support is not there. Unless everything is in place it is difficult to see change.* (UNICEF country office staff)

Similarly, shocks such as drought and conflict had forced girls' and their families to revert to negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and are likely to influence decision making in the future. With continuous progress towards girls' emancipation and gender equality, girls' decisions towards marriage seem to become increasingly important. Particularly in Amhara and Oromia regions, married / divorced girls often emphasised that they decided to marry against the wishes of their parents. Those decisions seem to be partially influenced by calculations of economic necessity and ambitions, peer pressure / support or emotional attachment and physical attraction.

*“I dropped out of school because, at that time all of my friends got married. There was my cousin who was engaged at that time and she was my best friend and she told me to do whatever she did. I got married because she was encouraging me to get married. [...] I saw married girls looking good, I was inspired by them and wanted to get married, but my family was angry and not happy. [...] Me and my husband started dating on phone and people encouraged us. Nobody forced me to get married, at that time if I were thinking to stop the marriage no one would have enforced it, it was me who choose to get married.* (Married out of school girl, Oromia)

## Exit Strategies and Systemic Sustainability

As depicted in section 6.3 UNICEF programming, including the ECM Flagship and associated programmes, has a strong **focus on institutional capacity building** of implementing partners. UNICEF also aims to strengthen the **government's buy-in and ownership** towards ECM: ECM Flagship activities are co-funded by the government and strategies often aim for government partners to duplicate, upscale and take over interventions. These strategies reportedly strengthened the government to have the capacity and interest to continue activities beyond the duration of the UNICEF programme. In addition, **high investment on technical capacity development and limited financial support on community level** set a good foundation for community mobilisation activities such as community dialogue platforms and girls/gender clubs to be maintained beyond the lifespan of the ECM Flagship.

*"As the training delivered to our staff remains with us, we will continue what we gain from the programme. This mean that as our staff gets the required knowledge and experience from the programme implementation we are able to sustain what the programme is doing." (Woreda level implementing partner)*

*UNICEF does not give money to the [girls/gender] clubs, it is just skills, capacitation, tools. They [government implementers] should be able to continue – it depends on capacity of school directors. (UNICEF county office staff)*

UNICEF staff also reported about the ECM Flagship having different **exit strategies** in place, However, it became apparent during interviews that there is no unified exit strategy. Findings showed that exit strategies were lacking in some areas and that programme staff were in general uncertain about the feasibility of existing exit strategies. As an example, girls / gender club participants in several kebeles reported that training cycles were simply repeated again and again once all sessions from the training manual we conducted. Uncertainty about exit strategies, among others, was linked to the lack of (up to date) data to the status of child marriage in the different regions, woredas and kebeles. Lack of data also turned out to be a barrier for determining whether continuous awareness raising activities were needed and when the point would be reached (in a kebele) when no more awareness raising would be necessary.

Despite the programme's strong focus on sustainability and some reported promising practices, our research has identified several **risks to the sustainability** of ECM Flagship activities which are supposed to be continued by the government. As elaborated in previous chapters, emergencies (such as drought and conflict) have in the past pulled resources away from governmental efforts towards ending child marriage. A general limitation in resources has also been flagged as an underlying problem for the government to fulfil commitments.

*They [government implementers] are not able to imagine performing without UNICEF. I feel sometimes we are creating dependencies - we tried exit strategies but they did not want to hear about stopping with UNICEF. Sometimes the government does not have a regular budget. (UNICEF field office staff)*

One output of the ECM Flagship's logframe is for UNICEF to capacitate the government to implement its own **National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C**. As part of this evaluation our research examined the implementation status of the roadmap. The first year progress review (unpublished) and interviewed key informants confirmed that progress towards implementing the roadmap's activities to combat child marriage were made and that targets of the roadmap were partially met. Technical support by UNICEF as well as commitment and

engagement by communities were considered crucial drivers for the implementation. Main barriers which were identified were insufficient resource mobilisation, high inflation, and emergencies which diverted financial and human resources away from “regular” programming. Despite financial gaps between the roadmap’s budget plan and actual allocated budget key informants still underlined that the existence of a detailed budget plan supported implementers to successfully lobby for mobilising funds and ultimately strengthen systems within the government to combat child marriage. Key informants also explained how UNICEF and other partners contributed to the government continuously improving monitoring structures and processes of the roadmap. One challenge for (financial) monitoring and reporting which was identified was that separate programme budgeting did not exist on the level of regions and below:

*Only on federal level there is programme budgeting, in regions there is line budgeting and it is difficult to separate roadmap activities. (Government implementer)*

Another challenge for monitoring was the loss of (UNICEF) trained staff due to high turnover. Similar to the ECM Flagship, mechanisms to regularly monitor outcomes of roadmap interventions were weak

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The following conclusions and lessons learnt can be drawn for the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the ECM Flagship at present and in the future:

**Relevance:** Findings show that the ECM Flagship targets areas of high need (with high prevalence of child marriage). They also show that the ECM Flagship design considers multisectoral vulnerabilities, however, actual convergence of multisectoral activities is limited. There are also several factors which can strongly affect child marriage but which were not considered in the ECM Flagship design, namely drought, conflict and economic hardship. We also found that the programme could target specific sub-groups among programme participants in a more differentiated way. Findings show that the ECM Flagship closely aligns with governmental and UNICEF priorities. The following lessons can be drawn for UNICEF to tailor (ECM) programming to the needs of rights holders and responsibilities of duty bearers:

- UNICEF's options for tackling economic hardship as a driver for child marriage are limited considering the mandate of the organisation. Despite these limitations livelihood remains a crucial sector to converge programming towards ECM. Partnering up with other UN agencies (or alternatively non-governmental organisations) could be a way to include the livelihood sector into UNICEF's collective impact approach towards ECM while still staying true to the organisation's mandate.
- Findings on frequent re-allocation of the catchment population (among others due to emergencies) underline the importance of choosing clusters of neighbouring kebeles as programme catchment areas to increase a programme's effectiveness. UNICEF may consider a stronger focus on clustering kebeles, however, trade-offs will have to be considered (e.g. not choosing kebeles with the highest prevalence of child marriage).
- Lack of access to and reasonable accommodation at the ECM Flagship programme activities lead only girls with mild disabilities to be able to participate in the programme, which is reflected in the low numbers of programme participants with disabilities. To make UNICEF programme activities truly inclusive of girls with disabilities will require a stronger focus on adjusting programme activities to the needs of rights holders with different abilities. Training of trainers for implementing staff to respond to differentiated needs, adjustment of training materials to incorporate principles of universal design more strongly, and introduction of (minimum) standards for accessible venues for programme activities are steps which can be taken to increase participation of girls and boys with disabilities. In addition, setting targets for number of children with disabilities and having reporting data disaggregated to the highest level of reporting strengthens visibility of and accountability towards this group. While small steps can always be taken, to make activities more inclusive, a more inclusive programming is not realistic without additional allocation of financial resources.
- Attitudes and behaviours of men remain a driver for child marriage even in those areas where the programme is established. Expecting men to act on behalf of girls and against their own perceived self-interest may not be realistic. UNICEF could consider piloting SBC activities which promote positive masculinity through involvement of male role models and peer-to-peer dialogue and exchange about the burden of gendered norms and the benefits of gender equality for men.



- Findings indicate that close alignment with policies and systems at UNICEF and its implementing partner is not sufficient for programmes to be implemented effectively. Ownership and commitment among leadership and key implementing staff can be equally important as drivers or barriers for successful programme implementation. Even if programmes are well aligned with policies and strategies, lack of staff commitment can still undermine the programme. Balancing time and budget to be spent on the development of theoretical concepts and designs with time and budget to be spent on ensuring the buy-in, roll-out and facilitation of their implementation can be vital for successful programme implementation.

**Efficiency:** The ECM Flagship programme design clearly identifies the unique contributions and synergies between the various UNICEF sections to combat child marriage. On the other hand, ECM Flagship failed to affect convergent programming of multiple sectors towards ECM. This is mainly due to ECM Flagship conceptualisation which dispenses with integrated programme planning and budgeting, and instead relies on structures of existing programmes from different sectors. Different ECM Flagship outputs have been mostly achieved with existing resources. Still, efficient utilisation of resources can be optimised in several areas. The ECM Flagship possesses a solid M&E Framework with some weaknesses which stem from the ECM Flagship's Programme design, as well as UNICEF Ethiopia standard regulations and operating procedures. The following lessons can be drawn for efficient (multisectoral) programme implementation in the future:

- Convergent programming should not be expected without additional budget allocation and integrated planning and M&E. Without these structures, multisectoral programmes such as the ECM Flagship are severely limited in their implementation. Still, the ECM Flagship can be seen as a promising practice to break siloed thinking and increase awareness among and exchange between UNICEF staff from different sections towards a common goal.
- For future programme cost effectiveness analysis, it is key that data are organised and shared within implementing organisations in an appropriate manner, so that further data processing and analysis is possible. This is ensured by using formats which can be opened by commonly used software, like Microsoft Excel or Access, and by avoiding non-editable formats like PDFs. Moreover, keeping regular records of data, such that the information can be pulled relatively easily from a pre-compiled database, allows for a better understanding of the cost effectiveness of programmes. Finally, disaggregating data as much as possible (preferably at individual or household level) will allow for the use of more advanced methods of calculating cost effectiveness.
- Although double reporting of programme monitoring data for the ECM Flagship has reportedly had a negligible negative effect on time-efficient reporting, similar monitoring set-ups (where monitoring data of one programme is also reported as achievement of another) may lead to challenges in the future. Should the Flagships or similar future programs (which rely on funding and implementation structures of other programs) manage to acquire funding on their own, attribution of accomplishments will be harder to establish, and double reporting of achievements may become a challenge for UNICEF's accountability towards different donors.
- Limiting financial resources to community facilitators and community members can lead to lower levels of commitment among programme participants and coordinators, which can lead to delays in programme implementation and missing target figures. This is, however, an



acceptable trade-off considering that utilising existing resources is a tried and tested strategy for programme participants to maintain activities beyond the lifespan of a programme.

- For the last few years, a significant amount of field office capacities has been absorbed by emergency response. As those emergencies tend to be protracted and re-occurring, UNICEF may consider a review and re-organisation of field office structures to allow for a continuation of regular programme activities in some areas while emergency efforts are implemented in others. In addition, increasing human resources at field offices for partner capacity development and programme monitoring could increase the efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation. Piloting programme feedback and complaint mechanism as a direct link to programme participants can further mitigate monitoring capacity limitations at field offices and strengthen voices of rights holders as well as mechanisms to hold the government accountable towards its own population.
- The ECM Flagship's focus on monitoring outputs contributes to prevailing knowledge gaps on the effectiveness of individual programme components and activities. By not integrating outcome indicators into regular programme monitoring, we also find that UNICEF is over-relying on external data, which either may not always be provided (e.g., missing DHS data) or costly to obtain (e.g., relying on one-time external evaluations and assessments). Strengthening UNICEF's own mechanisms to measure programme effectiveness would help fill existing knowledge gaps in a cost-effective way. Consolidating advocacy efforts may also be useful to help expediate the implementation of its next demographic health survey.

**Effectiveness:** We found that convergence and cooperation with sectors WASH, health and nutrition within UNICEF are limited, whereas cooperation and convergence among CP, education and SBC has pre-dated the ECM Flagship and is more pronounced. Effects of activities from different sectors could clearly be found during qualitative data collection. However, lack of measurement of outcomes by the ECM Flagship does not allow for quantification and differentiated analysis. We also found that systematic efforts are undertaken by the ECM Flagship and associated programmes to strengthen governmental systems and policies towards ECM. While it is not always possible to conclusively attribute changes in governmental policies, systems and practices to efforts undertaken by UNICEF, such changes are apparent. The following lessons can be drawn for the effectiveness of future ECM and multisectoral programming.

- Evidence for the effects convergent programming between UNICEF sectors could not be established through the ECM Flagship due to lack of available monitoring data. In the future, it will be key for future convergent programming to set up cross-sectoral tracking and monitoring mechanisms to measure unique contributions of and synergies between the various UNICEF sections to systematically assess the relevance and effectiveness of such programs.
- Promoting gender equality and strengthening community mobilisation and response mechanisms for ECM can contribute to increased community engagement and more equitable distribution of roles and responsibilities beyond the area of child marriage.
- A strength of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes, as well as of UNICEF in general, is the systematic efforts undertaken to capacitate and strengthen policies, systems, and practices of the governmental partners. More systematic planning, monitoring, and evaluation of (the content of) advocacy activities and their intended vs. actual changes for specific policies

and practices would provide more robust evidence for UNICEF's achievements and add value to the planning of future strategies for advocacy and capacity development.

**Sustainability:** The ECM Flagship programme design puts a strong focus on sustainability. It adopts messages and activities on different levels to maximise the facilitators and mitigate the barriers for long lasting behavioural change towards ending child marriage: in addition to targeting SBC among girls, their families, peer networks and their communities, the programme also puts a strong focus on increasing technical (and financial) capacities and ownership of the government to maintain and upscale activities to end child marriage. Accordingly, evaluation findings confirm that different ECM Flagship outputs and outcomes could be sustained until now. Despite these inherent strengths in the ECM Flagships' programme design, it is apparent that child marriage is influenced by a multitude of factors that UNICEF cannot fully control or steer. The following lessons can be drawn on the risks and limitations for the sustainability of the ECM Flagship and similar programmes:

- Support through family and peer networks has a major effect on girls' efficacy. The involvement of boys in ECM programming has had positive effects on creating a more enabling environments for girls. Continuing to increase boys' involvement in ECM programming as well as increasing efforts to target girls' parents may not only increase programme effectiveness but can also increase chances to effect lasting change within the communities.
- The UNICEF's ECM programming may underestimate girls' agency and ownership in deciding to get married, as well as the influence of ever married girls on their unmarried peers. Awareness on the dangers of false promises and misinformation by marriage brokers and prospective husbands as well as cost-benefit analysis of short-term socio-economic gains (e.g., marriage ceremony) vs. long term challenges can be key factors for girls to decide for / against child marriage. Married /divorced girls are a mainly untapped resource and have strong potential to become mobilisers against child marriage within the community.<sup>18</sup>
- UNICEF has revised currently used training manuals<sup>19</sup> to include, among others, exit strategies and a dialogue pathway for the girls/gender club and community dialogue sessions. Findings of the evaluation support this lesson learnt. Training manuals used by interviewed girls/gender clubs and community dialogue participants seemed to strongly focus on transferring knowledge. The fact that groups tended to repeat training schedules underlines the necessity of clear exit strategies, which focus more on experience exchange, dialogue and joint action so that activities can continue without external support and beyond the lifespan of awareness raising activities. Whether those exit strategies in fact succeed in sustaining group activities will have to be assessed at a later stage.
- The programme does not seem to strongly differentiate vulnerabilities, needs and interests of adolescent girls from different age groups. Trainings seem to mostly disregard (older) girls' interests and needs for physical and emotional closeness (as drivers for marriage) and seem to support messaging which depicts marriage and education as mutually exclusive concepts. If the reported trend towards increased emancipation and agency of girls continues, it may

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<sup>18</sup> Due to the sensitivity of this approach and in adherence to the principle of "do not harm" UNICEF will have to thoroughly consider girls' vulnerabilities and risks prior to mobilizing and capacitating married & divorced girls to (publicly) speak out against child marriage within their communities.

<sup>19</sup> To the evaluation team's knowledge the training manuals are at a draft stage and not approved, or rolled out yet.

not prove to be a feasible (and sustainable) alternative model to child marriage for girls to delay physical relationships and marriage until they finish higher education.

- While the ECM Flagship tackles some key underlying harmful norms and practices, not all socio-cultural norms which contribute to child marriage are addressed. To enact lasting social change and eventually end child marriage, communities will need to examine prevalent norms on female premarital sex, purity culture, the social construct of virginity and its linkage to girls' worth, as well as marriage as the only socially acceptable model to live out intimate relationships.
- There is evidence that emergencies had an effect on increased child marriage. Re-occurring and protracted emergencies are likely to influence communities and programme implementers in the future. They can undermine net benefits programmes have achieved in the past, and they can undermine the government's capacities to sustain ECM activities beyond the duration of UNICEF interventions. Conducting thorough risk assessments and setting up mitigation strategies for such emergencies during the planning of "regular" programmes can help limit the effect of such external factors on UNICEF programmes.
- Lack of resources make the government dependent on co-funding by international donors such as UNICEF. Accordingly, government priorities are influenced by the agendas of international donors. Accordingly, it is not realistic for UNICEF to expect that the government will sustain the same commitment and support structures for combatting child marriage after UNICEF phases out ECM programming. Exit strategies will have to be chosen with care. Lobbying and negotiating for budgeted, long term policies and frameworks, can help regulate the government's commitments over longer periods of time. In addition, UNICEF may consider allocating resources, which are independent of individual programmes, for monitoring the government's duties towards combatting child marriage. Strengthening participative mechanisms and capacities of civil society and rights holders can increase their abilities and drive to hold the government accountable to end child marriage long-term.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations were developed based on our triangulation and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative findings of primary and secondary data. During the data collection the plausibility of emerging conclusions and recommendations was tentatively tested through member checks with interviewed key informants. Subsequently, recommendations were presented and discussed in two separate workshops, one with the UNICEF reference group, the other with the reference group consisting of young female activists. This section presents our recommendations for the future planning and implementation of the ECM Flagship and associated programmes.

**Test integrated programming for multisectoral convergent interventions to ECM:** Small scale multisectoral convergent interventions should be tested in different regions to generate evidence and lessons learnt to inform future strategies on multisectoral, convergent programming towards ECM. Pilot projects should include localised, integrated needs assessments and an integrated M&E frameworks to generate robust evidence on the effects of convergent programming. Small/scale convergent interventions can be implemented in preparation for the new UNICEF Country Programme and later scaled up within the Programme.

**Integrate outcome indicators in ECM Flagship M&E Framework:** To bridge knowledge gaps on programme outcomes and efficiently utilise existing assessment and monitoring tools, reporting within the ECM Flagship (and where necessary associated programmes) should include indicators which track and measure changes among the programmes' catchment population. For this purpose, existing indicators and tools which have already been tested / piloted<sup>20</sup> can be integrated and upscaled into the programmes' M&E framework(s).

**Initiate programme partnerships with other UN agencies to include livelihood into ECM programming:** Economic hardship has a major influence on child marriage and should not be excluded from UNICEF's collective impact approach towards ECM. Considering the limitations of UNICEF to engage in livelihood activities, negotiations with other UN agencies, and / or potentially non-governmental organisations should be held in preparation for the new Country Programme, so that the new programme cycle can include livelihood interventions to contribute towards ECM. Existing resources and expertise on livelihoods in house can be leveraged and good practices at UNICEF for engaging with livelihood actors in Ethiopia and in other countries can be used as frames of reference for establishing such partnerships.

**Pilot targeting ever married girls as agents for change:** Considering that girls have increasing agency in decision making towards marriage and that unmarried girls tend to use their peers as sources of information, the ECM girls/gender club component should consider strengthening capacities of married girls as activists against child marriage to increase programme effectiveness. This will also strengthen the programme's human rights based approach<sup>21</sup> and justify tailoring trainings more to the specific needs of married / divorced girls.

**Upscale peacebuilding and social cohesion messaging:** Conflict can become a driver for child marriage. The inclusion of peacebuilding and social cohesion into SBC messaging should be considered for gender clubs and community dialogue sessions of the ECM Flagship to contribute

<sup>20</sup> Tried and tested tools to measure effectiveness of ECM activities which could be upscaled are for example the "community readiness verification tool" developed by the ECM Alliance, monitoring mechanisms which linked and tracked school absences to girls' menstrual cycles, and feedback tools which are part of the girls/gender club manual.

<sup>21</sup> By strengthening the participation and emancipation of married / divorced girls.

to increase resilience towards conflict. Such activities reportedly have already been piloted and should be considered for upscaling.

Table 2 below summarises and prioritises our recommendations and links them to responsible departments at UNICEF.

*Table 2. Recommendations*

DAC Criteria	Priority	Recommendation	Responsibility at UNICEF
relevance, efficiency, effectiveness	High	Pilot integrated programming for multisectoral convergent interventions to ECM in different regions.	CP, Education, SBC, WASH, Nutrition, Health sections
relevance, efficiency, effectiveness	High	Integrate outcome indicators in ECM Flagship 's (and where relevant associated programmes') M&E Framework.	CP section, Planning & Monitoring Unit
relevance, effectiveness	medium	Initiate programme partnerships with other UN agencies to include livelihood into ECM programming.	CP, Education, Social Policy sections
relevance, effectiveness	medium	As part of the girls/gender clubs pilot targeting married / divorced girls as agents for change	CP, Education sections
Relevance	Low	Upscale inclusion of peacebuilding and social cohesion messaging: into SBC messaging for gender clubs and community dialogue sessions.	SBC, CP, Education sections

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## Annex I - Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Ethical Considerations

The evaluation design and implementation were guided by **UNICEF's Procedure on Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis** (UNICEF, 2021) and **United Nations Evaluation Group's guidelines** (2020). The team also took into consideration the recommendations put forward by the **Ethical Research Involving Children** compendium by UNICEF Innocenti (2013) and the provisions from the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

The evaluation design contemplated the core ethical principles of **respect, beneficence, justice, integrity, and accountability** of UNICEF's Ethical Procedure, and developed specific research methods and field protocols to uphold them. The evaluation has integrated **gender and human rights** (in particular, adolescent rights), from the planning stages and tool design to the data collection process, and in accordance with United Nations Evaluation Group principles and guidelines, and a **participatory approach** which ensured the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders from different backgrounds in three regions of Ethiopia, including consultative and collaborative modes of adolescent participation. Adolescents from diverse environments, both married and unmarried, had the opportunity to express their views on the programme's activities, outputs, outcomes, as well as on the evaluation results. The team was also attentive to ensure that vulnerable groups were included in the sampling, with representation of out-of-school girls, girls from remote and rural areas and girls with disabilities.

**Gender equality** and the **empowerment of (young) women** was moreover integrated throughout the planning and implementation of the evaluation. Gender equality and women empowerment were considered in drafting the interview guidelines. Gender aspects were integrated in the design (see elaboration section 3.2) and the findings for EQs (see section 6), as this dimension was considered essential in view of the type of programme being evaluated and the target population involved: adolescents, and in particular, girls. Attention was also paid to the effects of the intervention and any unexpected effects on girls and vulnerable sub-groups (see sections 6.1, 6.3, and 6.4).

The evaluation design (inception report), including tools and consent forms were submitted to an **independent ethical review** board, the Human Subjects Research Ethic Approval Independent Review Board. The evaluation team received the **ethical clearance** to conduct the research end of January 2023. Further, all evaluation staff were required to abide by **C4ED's Code of Conduct**, based on the principles of integrity, accountability, independence and impartiality, respect for persons and communities, and professional commitment, and to state that no conflict of interest was present for their participation. Research staff received **training on ethical research principles**, including considerations for research with children and child-sensitive interviewing. C4ED and associated staff committed to not exposing participants or researchers to harm, to abide by national legal provisions, and to be culturally sensitive to respondents' needs and culture.

The team established **research protocols** based on UNICEF's *Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis* to ensure all participants' **informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, wellbeing and safeguarding**, including of C4ED's duty of care. First, interviews and FGDs took place in settings that allowed **safety and privacy** of participants,

with researchers checking whether the venues were accepted to ensure their requirements were met. The physical safety and emotional well-being of adolescents was promoted and safeguarded during the entire research process. Adolescents were primarily contacted through networks of trust (implementing partners). The privacy, confidentiality, and data security of all participants, including adolescents, were protected through established field protocols in interviews, recording, note taking, and analysis.

All participants were **informed** of the research purpose and the conditions for their participation before taking part, and required to sign/thumbprint consent forms, which were prepared in simple language both in English and in their native languages. Informed consent was required from all adult participants, while for adolescents, both parental/guardian informed consent and adolescent's informed assent were requested (see informed consent / assent templates Annex VIII). This is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that the child's views are respected and that participation in the study does not do any harm and is in the best interest of the child.

Further, all participants were advised that the information provided would be treated **confidentially, anonymised**, and used only for the purposes of the research. They were also informed that their involvement was voluntary, featuring no compensations, and that their consent was negotiable, with the possibility to be withdrawn at any point without negative consequences. Moreover, all participants were provided with a contact point to refer any concerns or grievances regarding researchers or any aspect of the research, as well as with a relevant phone numbers e-mail address as part of their consent form. For the case of adolescents, and in line with our 'Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy' which promotes zero-tolerance against abuse, exploitation, and any form of harm to vulnerable people, referral mechanisms were discussed with UNICEF prior to data collection.

As further elaborated in section 3.2 data collection **tools** were **adapted to the needs and specificities** of each type of participant, contextualised and translated into relevant local languages (Amharic, Afan Oromo and/or Somali), to ensure that questions were age- appropriate, easily understandable, and relatable to their contexts. Further, a pilot was done to test and adjust the appropriateness of the tools. **Evaluation team members** for primary data collection were recruited locally to ensure their knowledge of the culture, customs, and practices of the different regions, and to be mindful of the implications of these in the implementation of the study, from the revision and contextualisation of the tools to the interviews and post-interview work. Interviews with programme participants were conducted in the local languages to encourage trust building, rapport, and free expression of participants. Gender roles were also taken into consideration in accordance with the local context. The research team was gender-mixed and it was ensured that qualified female researchers interviewed female counterparts wherever this was relevant according to the local norms. **Diversity of respondents' gender** with a focus on adolescent girls were considered in the sampling strategy to ensure that different voices of right's holders were heard and that findings considered a multitude of different perspectives and experiences (see section 3.2.1).

Adolescents' **rights** and **agency** were considered in this target group's engagement for interviews and in the formulation of questions to explore the issues of relevance to them in the context of the programme. EQs were designed in a way to allow for an **intersectional analysis** of boys and girls, as well as vulnerable groups, like out-of-school girls and girls with disabilities. To further encourage adolescents' agency and collaboration, and to adapt to their shorter attention span and

higher motivation needs, interviews with adolescents were conducted via a flexible tool (life histories). , Researchers also applied techniques for responding to discomfort of participants during the interviews (i.e., taking breaks, changing topics, asking if they would like someone else present, and respecting their right to silence).

Regarding **data handling**, qualitative and quantitative data was de-identified at individual level and findings aggregated to appropriate levels to avoid sources been identified. Names and other personally identifiable information were removed from datasets after data were collected and unique identifiers assigned instead. Interview notes, audios and consent forms were nominated with numbers and typologies of respondents. All data collected was uploaded and stored in C4ED's secure server online, to which only staff working on the project will have access. No participants are identified in this report.

## Annex II – Qualitative Sample

Table 3. Qualitative sample

Respondent Categories	Identified respondent groups and selection criteria	Geographic coverage & no. respondents						Total no. resp.	Total Sessions
KII and small group discussion with programme implementers									
		National						8	6
UNICEF country office staff	ECM Flagship focal points and coordinators, section heads	8(6)						7	5
Programme partners on national level	Representative of MoWCY	1						1	1
		Amhara	Oromia	Somali			14	7	
UNICEF regional field office staff	ECM Flagship coordinators (CP)	1	1	1			3	3	
Programme implementers on regional level	BoWSA, Bureaus of Education, Health, Planning, Justice	5(1)	4 (1)		2		11	4	
Focus Group Discussions with programme implementers and participants									
		Amhara	Oromia	Somali			9	3	
UNICEF regional field office staff sectoral focal points for ECM Flagship	Staff from WASH, nutrition, health, education sections	3(1)	2(1)		4(1)		9	3	
		Quarit	Takussa	Haromaya	Fedis	Gode	Kabridhar	175	24
Girls participating in girls/gender clubs	In-school adolescent girls, unmarried and married	(1) 8	(1) 8	-	(1)8	-	(1) 8	32	4
Girls participating in girls/gender clubs	Out of school adolescent girls, unmarried and married	(1) 8	(1) 8	(2) 14	(1)6	(2) 16	(1) 6	58	8
programme participants from community mobilisation activities	(4) mixed-gender, (1) female) adult community members (incl. women's	(1)8	(1) 13	(1) 8	(1) 6	(1) 7	(1) 7	49	6



	activist, religious leaders, parents, teachers etc.), (1) adolescent boys								
representatives from community service providers of all sectors who participated in the strengthening integrated multi-sectoral services component	Implementing partners from Bureaus at woreda / kebele level (administrative heads/staff, lawyers, police officers, health workers etc.)	(1)8	(1) 9	(1) 5	(1)5	(1) 4	(1) 5	36	6
<b>In-Depth Interviews / life histories with programme participants</b>									
		Quarit	Takussa	Haromaya	Fedis	Gode	Kebridhar	21	21
Girls participating in girls/gender clubs	married and unmarried adolescent girls, (2) with disability, (10) without disability	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	12
Family members of girls interviewed in IDIs/life histories	Mothers, fathers, brothers, uncles	2	1	2	2	1	1	9	9
								<b>227</b>	<b>61</b>

## Annex III – Evaluation Matrix

Table 4. Evaluation matrix

Evaluation Questions	Measurement	Sources	Methodology
1 RELEVANCE			
1.1 To what extent is the ECM Flagship Result Programme design and implementation relevant in addressing major issues for girls' vulnerability to Child Marriage	- (gender specific) vulnerabilities and violations of (human) rights as identified by interviewed respondents - (gender specific) vulnerabilities and violations of (human) rights as identified by secondary literature - comparison of programme design against identified vulnerabilities - ability of programme to respond to vulnerabilities as perceived / experienced by respondents	IDI with adolescent girls, KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers, secondary literature, project planning documents	qual
	- targeted regions have higher rates of child marriage as compared to non-targeted regions before implementation started	DHS	quant
1.2 How relevant and responsive has the ECM Flagship Result Programme been to national and community needs, priorities and commitments?	- comparison of national / regional governmental commitments against programme design - comparison of identified community needs and priorities against programme design and perceived effects - extent to which external factors have undermined effectiveness of the programme - extent to which such external factors (risks) have been identified and prevented or mitigated throughout project planning and implementation	KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers, national / regional policies / strategies / action plans	qual
1.3 To what extent is the Flagship Programme aligned with UNICEF priorities with respect to ending child marriage?	- comparison of UNICEF policies & plans against programme design - buy-in and ownership of UNICEF staff towards ECM Flagship	UNICEF strategic documents, programme documents, KII with programme implementers	qual
2 EFFICIENCY			
2.1 How has the Flagship Programme result's approach facilitated linkages and synergies between sectors to accelerate efforts to end child marriage?	- comparison of planned and practiced cross-sectoral cooperation & convergence between ECM Flagship sectors - experienced (positive, negative, intended, unintended) effects from cross-sectoral cooperation among implementers - drivers and barriers for cross-sectoral cooperation & convergence as identified by implementers	KII with programme implementers, programme documents	qual
2.2 To what extent have the outputs of the ECM Flagship Result Programme been achieved or are likely to be achieved with the appropriate amount of resources (funds, expertise, time, procedures, rules and regulations, administrative costs, etc.)?	- drivers / barriers for timely implementation of project activities (incl. expertise, procedures, rules and regulations) - drivers / barriers (incl. trade-offs) for cost-efficient programme implementation (incl. expertise, procedures, rules and regulations)	KII with programme implementers	qual
	- input/output ratio (disaggregated on the regional level)	programme data	quant

2.3 To what extent are monitoring mechanisms in place to track changes as result of ECM Flagship Result Programme implementation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-validity and relevance of the structure of the ToC; extent of causal linkages and assignment of and logic between activities, outputs, outcomes and objective(s);</li> <li>-extent to which indicators are specific, measurable achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) (incl. validity, reliability and homogeneity of data sources/means of verification)</li> <li>-comprehensiveness of performance M&amp;E plan (incl. key performance indicators, frequency of data collection, sampling, method of data collection and data collection instruments)</li> </ul>	KII with programme implementers, programme documents	mixed
<b>3 EFFECTIVENESS</b>			
3.1 How are different sectors (including elements WASH, health, nutrition) contributing to increasing girls' wellbeing within and beyond the objectives of the ECM Flagship Result Programme? <sup>22</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reported (intended and unintended) effects of separate and cumulative outputs within set targets from logframe</li> <li>-reported (intended and unintended) effects of separate and cumulative outputs beyond targets from logframe</li> <li>-reported and /or deduced programme interlinkages contributing to the effect</li> <li>-reported changes in outcomes between ECM programme and ECM Flagship Result Programme (incl. reported added value of WASH, health, and nutrition sectors)</li> </ul>	IDI with adolescent girls, KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers	qual
	-monitoring data on different activities at national and regional level	Monitoring and programmedata	quant
3.2 How much has the programme positively influenced (or is likely to do so in the coming years) systems and policies in different sectors to support girls who are vulnerable to child marriage? <sup>23</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reported changes in policies to which the Flagship Programme contributed</li> <li>-reported changes in procedures and practices of implementers to which the Flagship Programme contributed</li> </ul>	KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers	qual
<b>4 SUSTAINABILITY</b>			
4.1 Will benefits last?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-identification of ECM Flagship programmedesign elements which strengthen prospective sustainability</li> <li>-(systemic / institutional) long term benefits as reported by Flagship Programme implementers and other key informants</li> <li>-factors undermining benefits as identified by Flagship Programme participants and secondary literature</li> <li>-estimation of the likelihood of factors to occur within / beyond the lifespan of the Flagship Programme</li> </ul>	IDI with adolescent girls, KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers, secondary literature	qual
4.2 What changes - to which the ECM Flagship Result Programme contributed <sup>24</sup> – can be identified and are likely to last in the lives of individuals, families, communities and the broader environment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-social and behaviour changes (e.g. in information (knowledge), motivation (attitudes, beliefs), ability to act (skills, self-efficacy, access) and norms (perceived, sociocultural, gender) as reported by people affected by the programme</li> <li>-factors undermining changes as identified by programme participants and secondary literature</li> <li>-estimation of the likelihood of factors to occur within / beyond the lifespan of the programme</li> </ul>	IDI, KII with programme implementers, FGD with community members / service providers	qual

<sup>22</sup> Wording of the original EQ from ToR simplified to clearly distinguish EQ 4.1 from 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2

<sup>23</sup> Original EQ from ToR shortened to increase legibility and conciseness.

<sup>24</sup> The term "attribution" used in the ToR was replaced by the term "contribution" considering that this evaluation will not be able to confirm changes attributable to the Flagship Programme.

4.3 To what extent is the “National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C – 2020-2024” implemented (incl. budget allocation and accountability mechanisms) and which outputs can be expected to last? <sup>25</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reported drivers and barriers for implementation</li> <li>-strengths and weaknesses of existing monitoring and accountability mechanism of the roadmap</li> <li>-extent of prospective institutional / systemic sustainability of Roadmap outputs beyond the roadmap's lifespan</li> </ul>	KII with programme implementers, roadmap documents incl. roadmap first year assessment	qual
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<sup>25</sup> The question "what is the quality of the multisectoral ending child marriage strategy and its implementation (flagship)" from the original EQ of the ToC was deleted as it is unspecific and measurements would duplicate other measurements from EQ 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1

## Annex IV - Cost Effectiveness per Indicator for All Years

Table 5. Cost effectiveness -cost per beneficiary - for each output, per year

Indicator	In 2020	Cumulative up to 2020	In 2021	Cumulative up to 2021	In 2022	Cumulative up to 2022
Output 1.1 Number of adolescents that have participated in UNICEF-supported skills development programmes	2.67	2.67	1.83	2.14	4.99	2.59
Output 1.2 Number of adolescent girls who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions	1.13	1.13	12.10	4.17	14.21	6.61
Output 2.1 Number of people participating in community engagement and behaviour change interventions	0.61	0.61	1.30	0.90	1.12	0.98
Output 2.2 Number of individuals reached through media programmes on key protective behaviours and access to services			0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03
Output 3.1 Number of adolescents reached through schools with Menstrual Hygiene Health Management implemented in schools programmes	33.94	33.94	9.81	19.74	7.96	15.17
Output 3.2 Number of marginalised girls supported for school enrolment and retention			3.62	3.62	1.45	2.21
Output 3.3 Number of adolescents reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services	3.04	3.04	1.71	2.05	27.55	3.34
Output 3.4 Number of health workers capacitated to provide gender responsive health services for adolescents			1169.23	1169.23	248.90	441.87
Output 3.5 Number of adolescents receiving nutrition services with UNICEF support	9.97	9.97	7.37	8.88	2.25	4.64
Output 3.6 Number of PSNP Clients attending SBCC sessions that include preventative messaging on ending child marriage					0.10	0.10

## Annex V - Additional Graphs from Analysis

Figure 8. Target versus achievement for Output 3.2, 2020- 2022

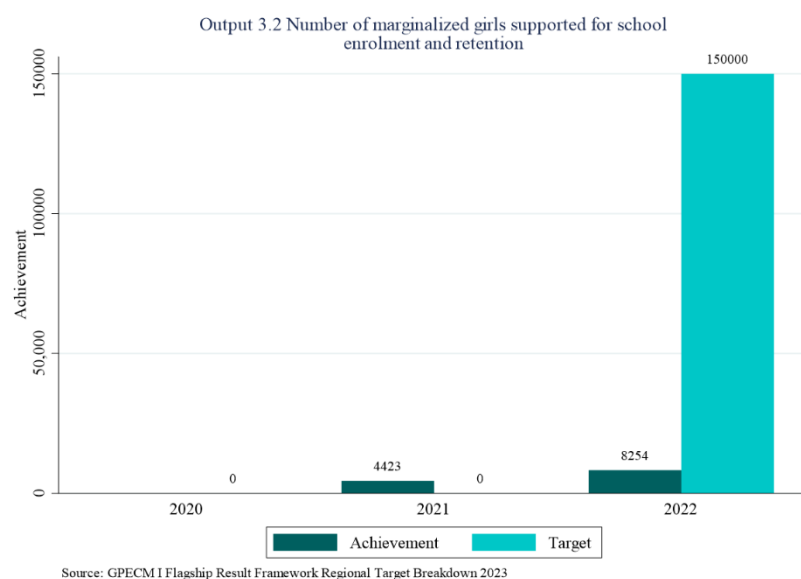
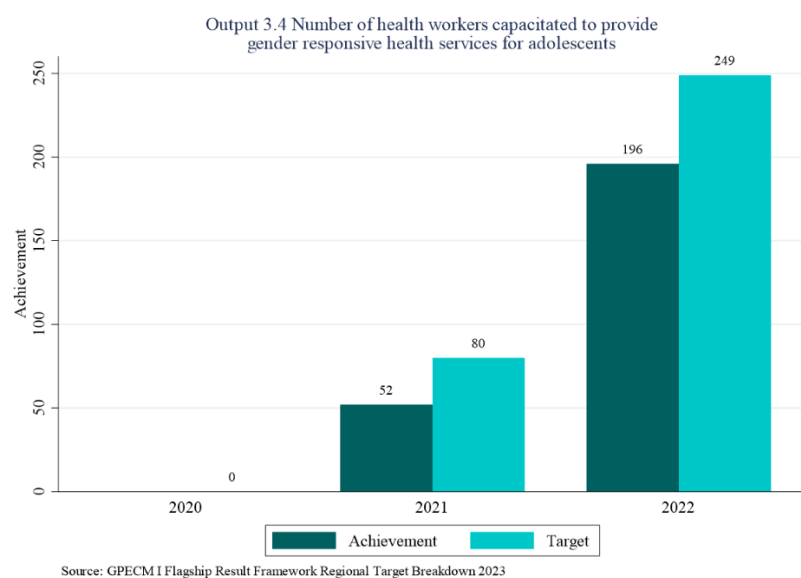


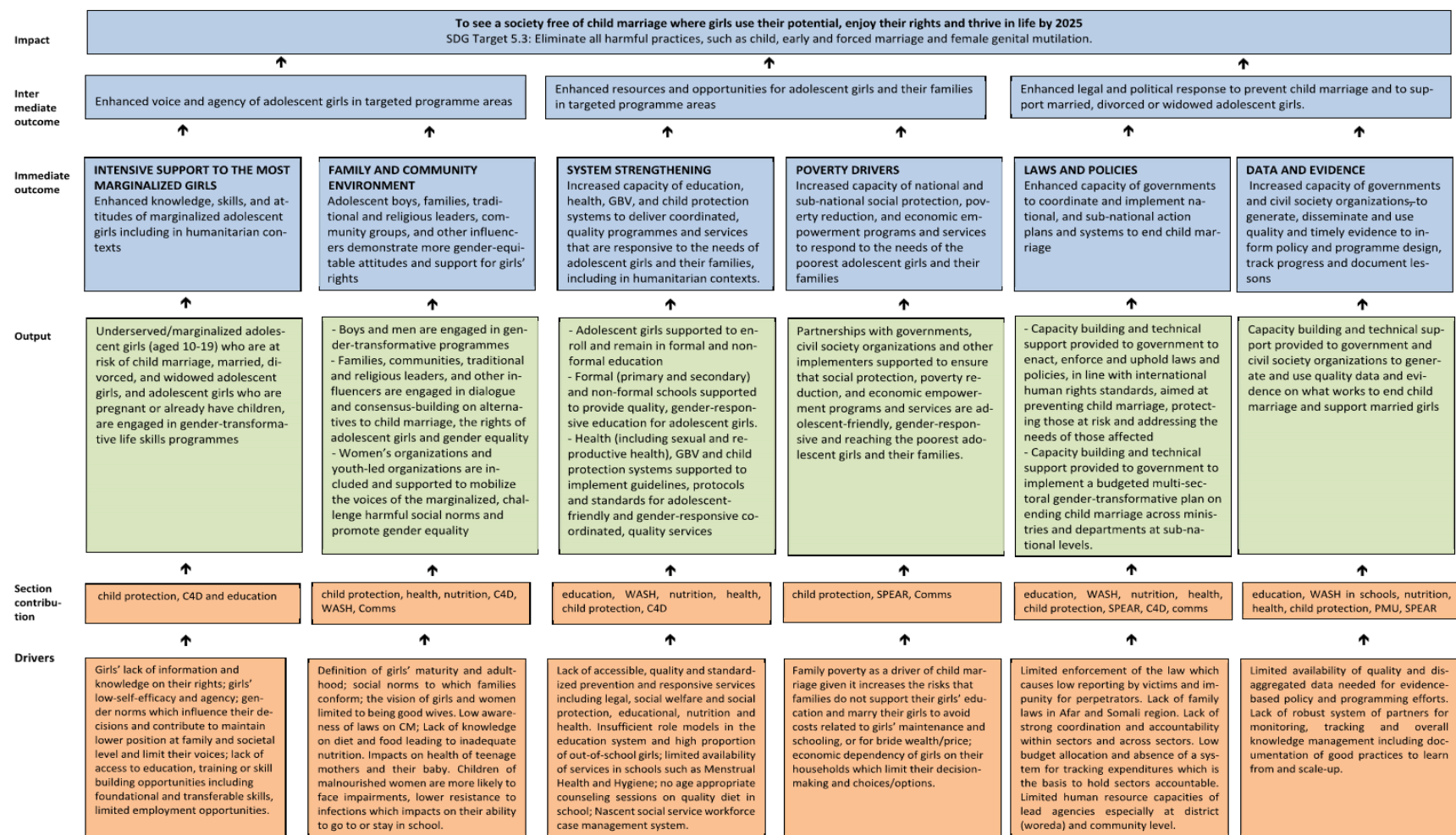
Figure 9. Target versus achievement for Output 3.4, 2020- 2022





## Annex VI - ECM Flagship Theory of Change

Figure 10. ECM Flagship Result Program Theory of Change<sup>26</sup>



<sup>26</sup> Published by UNICEF September 2020.

## Annex VII - ECM Flagship Logframe

Table 6. ECM Flagship logframe regional target breakdown<sup>27</sup>

Results Statement	Key Indicators	Geographic disaggregation	Baseline		CM Flagship End Result	Means of Verification
			Year	Baseline value		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Enhanced knowledge, education and life-skills, and attitudes of marginalised adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts	Proportion of girls who express increased sense of self-efficacy; who feel confident in their ability to negotiate and delay early marriage; who feel comfortable speaking without fear <sup>Y</sup>	National	2017	27%	80%	SBCC baseline-endline
<b>Output 1:</b> Underserved/ marginalised adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced or widowed are engaged in gender transformative life skills and CSE programmes that build their knowledge, skills, awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.	Number of adolescent girls and boys that have participated in UNICEF-supported skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability	National	2019	0	Total=18,000 (75% girls) Humanitarian = 4,665 (75% girls) Development = 13,335 (75% girls)	Government Reports, UNICEF Periodic Reports (RAM, Field Monitoring, AR)
		Afar	2019	0	Total: 630 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 252 (75% girls) Development:378 (75% girls)	
		Amhara	2019	0	Total: 8,660 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 1,732 (75% girls) Development:6,928 (75% girls)	

<sup>27</sup> For the legibility of the report, the ECM Flagship logframe was condensed, excluding information on indicator types, annual targets, frequency of reporting, accountable sections and focal points.

		Gambella	2019	0	Total: 250 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 125 (75% girls) Development: 125 (75% girls)	
		Oromia	2019	0	Total: 5,000 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 1,500 (75% girls) Development: 3,500 (75% girls)	
		SNNP	2019	0	Total: 1,280 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 384 (75% girls) Development: 896 (75% girls)	
		Somali	2019	0	Total: 750 (75% girls) Humanitarian: 300 (75% girls) Development: 450 (75% girls)	
	Number of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions in programme areas (targeting out-of-school girls only)	National	2020	8,959	83,794	Programme/N GO records and relevant administrative data
		Afar	2020	0	1,728	
		Amhara	2020	2,700	25,500	
		Gambella	2020	0	2,250	
		Oromia	2020	2,000	15,575	
		SNNP	2020	4,039	40,475	
		Somali	2020	220	2,068	
<b>Output 2:</b> Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child	Number of people participating in community engagement and behaviour change interventions to address harmful practices, social and gender norms	National	2020	2,620	572,826	Programme records
		Afar	2020	164	30,157	
		Amhara	2020	1,228	281,471	
		Gambella	2020	205	12,702	
		Oromia	2020	409	135,409	

marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality		SNNP	2020	287	52,774	media records
		Somali	2020	328	60,313	
	Number of individuals reached through media programmes with messaging on key protective behaviours and access to services	National	2019	0	3,912,000	
		Afar	2019	0	27,000	
		Amhara	2019	0	1,125,000.00	
		Gambella	2019	0	90,000	
		Oromia	2019	0	1,125,000	
		SNNP	2019	0	1,125,000	
<b>Output 3:</b> Strengthened provision of integrated multi-sectoral services (WASH, Health, Social protection, Education and Nutrition services) to protect girls from child marriage	Number of adolescents reached through schools with Menstrual Hygiene Health Management implemented in schools programmes as a result of UNICEF direct support and/or leveraged through national programmes.	Somali	2019	0	420,000	Administrative data from regional water bureaus certified by UNICEF specialist/officers
		National	2019	0	473700	
		Afar	2019	0	16200	
		Amhara	2019	0	111300	
		Gambella	2019	0	6300	
		Oromia	2019	0	182,100	
		SNNPR	2019	0	82200	
		Sidama	2019	0	22800	
	Number of marginalised girls supported for school enrolment and retention	Somali	2019	0	52800	Programme records
		National	2019	37,000	550,000	
		Afar	2019	4,000	25,000	
		Amhara	2019	20,000	72,000	
		Oromia	2019	8,000	162,000	
		SNNPR	2019	-	87,000	
		Sidama	2019	-	22,000	
		Somali	2019	5,000	110,000	
	Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services	Gambella	2019	-	72,000	Programme records, Tracking forms, survey of girls
		National	2019	12,503	72,852	
		Afar	2019	1,608	9,586	
		Amhara	2019	5,340	30,127	
		Gambella	2019	847	4,952	

		Oromia	2019	1,581	9,844	
		SNNP	2019	1,355	7,811	
		Sidama	2019	171	962	
		Somali	2019	1,601	9,568	
	Number of health workers capacitated to provide gender responsive health services for adolescents	National	2019	0	1076	Programme records
		Afar	2019	0	361	
		Somali	2019	0	715	
	Number of adolescent receiving nutrition services through with UNICEF support in the reporting year	National	2019	0	1,058,419	Programme records
		Afar	2019	0	32,249	
		Amhara	2019	0	86,890	
		Gambella	2019	0	9,795	
		Oromia	2019	0	32,424	
		Sidama	2019	0	19,787	
		SNNP	2019	0	23,791	
		Somali	2019	0	104,924	
	Number PSNP Clients attending SBCC sessions that include preventative messaging on ending child marriage	National	2019	0	4,600,000	MIS
		Afar	2019	0	600,000	
		Amhara	2019	0	1,000,000	
		Gambella	2019	0	400,000	
		Oromia	2019	0	800,000	
		SNNP	2019	0	600,000	
		Somali	2019	0	600,000	
	<b>Output 4:</b> Capacity building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multi-sectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child	Costed national plan / strategy on child marriage is implemented	National	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.

marriage across ministries and departments at sub-national levels.		Afar	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	
		Amhara	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	
		Gambella	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	
		Oromia	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	
		SNNP	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	
		Somali	2018	Level 2 - A costed national action plan or strategy is in place	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.	

## Annex - VIII Terms of References

### Summary

<b>Type of Contract (tick the appropriate box)</b>	Consultant Contract	Individual Contractor	✓ <b><u>International Institutional Contract</u></b>	TA
<b>Title of the research</b>	Formative Evaluation of End Child Marriage (ECM) Flagship Result			
<b>Purpose</b>	The Purpose of End Child Marriage flagship result evaluation is to assess effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and sustainability of the cross-sectoral inputs.			
<b>Expected fee /cost</b>	USD 150,000			
<b>Location</b>	Ethiopia			
<b>Duration</b>	6-8 months			
<b>Start Date</b>	TBC (tentatively on 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022)			
<b>Reporting to</b>	Evaluation Specialist			
<b>Budget Code/PBA No Grant reference and WBS</b>	Implementation and Management of Evaluation” 1410/A0/07/006/001/005			
<b>PCR, IR and Activity</b>	Evaluation 1410/A0/07/006/001/006			
<b>Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Study (an investigation designed to improve knowledge on a particular topic) <input type="checkbox"/> Survey (an assessment of the conditions of a particular group at a point in time) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluation (an assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy)			
<b>Date of preparation of TOR</b>	November 2020 Revisited on May 2022			



## 1. Background

Child and forced marriage (CFM) is a human rights violation and a harmful practice that disproportionately affects women and girls globally, preventing them from living their lives free from all forms of violence.

CFM threatens the lives and futures of girls and women around the world, robbing them of their agency to make decisions about their lives, disrupting their education, making them more vulnerable to violence, discrimination and abuse, and preventing their full participation in economic, political and social spheres.

Child marriage is also often accompanied by early and frequent pregnancy and childbirth, resulting in higher than average maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

CFM may lead to women and girls attempting to flee their communities or commit suicide to avoid or escape the marriage.

Child marriage is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age.

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals call for global action to end this human rights violation by 2030. And child marriage (under 18 years) is outlawed in Ethiopia and awareness of the law is increasing, but millions of girls remain at risk. Despite significant progress in Ethiopia, the prevalence of girls marrying before age 18 remains high - i.e. 15.1 million child brides in Ethiopia, 40 per cent of women aged 20-24 years old married or in a union before age 18 and 14 per cent of women aged 20-24 years old were married or in a union before age 15 according to the Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey, 2016<sup>28</sup>.

Multiple and interrelated causes can explain the phenomenon: Social and religious norms that restrict females to roles as wives and mothers; gendered stereotypes that oblige females to do all or most of the domestic labour and childcare; lack of opportunities for vocational training or safe secondary schools with water, toilets; lack of opportunities for safe, paid labour; incentives for acquiring dowry and traditions of family honour tied to brides being young virgins. Emergencies such as conflict and drought, further exacerbate the risk of child marriage, as the practice is used as economic coping mechanism for family survival. In 2022 Ethiopia has seen rising trends of child marriage in conflict and drought-affected regions.

Moreover, it is estimated globally that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 children live with disability, this would lead to an estimation of about 14.5 million people in Ethiopia living with disability, out of which 1.7 million are children, and 80% of them living in multidimensional poverty. Risks are estimated to be greater for women and girls with disabilities than for women without disabilities and men with disabilities, hence female children living with disability are likely to be more vulnerable and hence more at risk of child marriage<sup>29</sup>.

The ECM has multiplier effects, notably contribute to more girls in school, fewer adolescent pregnancies, healthier new-borns, increased female participation in financial institutions and

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/topics/child-marriage>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/reports/end-child-marriage>

paid employment, and because females who marry later are less likely to accept intimate partner violence.

UNICEF globally is committed to children rights, and in particular to end child marriage. [UNICEF Ethiopia's Country Programme of Cooperation \(July 2020-June 2025\)](#)<sup>30</sup> has six Programme Components<sup>31</sup> which reflect national, global, regional priorities, cross-cutting change strategies and planned results for children to be achieved annually and by July 2025 and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Evaluation for UNICEF Ethiopia Country Programme (2016-2020) and the Partners Perception Study both conducted in 2019, highlighted the need for strengthening collaboration between programmes to accelerate results for children. In response to the findings, UNICEF Ethiopia has articulated its Programme Components around four Flagship Results for the new 2020-2025 Country Programme: stop stunting, all children learn, end child marriage and end open defecation.

## 2. Evaluation object

UNICEF selected '[End Child Marriage' as a flagship programme](#)<sup>32</sup> (for the 2020-2025 period) to contribute to successfully implement the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (2020-2024) and to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal number 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. The End Child Marriage (ECM) flagship result aims to contribute to a society free of child marriage where girls use their potential, enjoy their rights and thrive in life by 2025. The End Child Marriage (ECM) flagship has been developed because of the high national prevalence and burden of child marriage in the country Ethiopia has been implementing the [United Nations Global End Child Marriage Programme](#)<sup>33</sup> (GP ECM) involving UNICEF and UNFPA since 2016. UNICEF is the administrative lead globally and in Ethiopia for the GP ECM. In UNICEF the programme is implemented through the Child Protection and Learning and Development sections. Phase two started in 2020 with funding for the next four years (until December 2023).

The interventions to end child marriage, in the framework of the end child marriage flagship, will be closely linked to the ongoing work for a robust child protection system and allied systems in SBC, health, learning and development, nutrition, social protection and WASH to accelerate progress made over the last years. Programme interventions will take a gender-transformative approach and avail opportunities to change harmful social and gender norms and practices.

[A total of about USD \\$24 million is required to significantly reduce child marriage in Ethiopia](#)<sup>34</sup> (within the 2020-25 country programme). This funding would strengthen the capacity of

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<sup>30</sup> <https://sites.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/2020-PL7-Ethiopia-EN-ODS.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Health; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Learning and Development; Child Protection; Social Policy; Programme Effectiveness.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/reports/end-child-marriage#:~:text=UNICEF%20selected%20'End%20Child%20Marriage,Sustainable%20Development%20Goal%20number%205.3.>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-end-child-marriage#:~:text=The%20UNFPA%20UNICEF%20Global%20Programme,through%20education%20and%20alternative%20paths.>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/media/6091/file/End%20Child%20Marriage%20Flagship.pdf>

adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage to make their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, sexual and reproductive health.

The key stakeholders, a part from UNFPA and UNICEF (including field offices), are the Ethiopian government counterparts (including Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), Ministry of Education (MoE) and other relevant ministries, both at federal and regional level, which are the ultimate duty bearers, as well as other implementing partners such as national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs). Other stakeholders are the donors that finance UNICEF in the effort to end child marriage. UNICEF's role is mainly technical and financial support to line ministers, bureaux (at regional level) and woredas (sub-regional administrative units) offices involved in the delivery of the activities aimed at ending child marriage in the country. At UNICEF, sections (child protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH, social policy, plus the cross cutting functions such as SBC and gender) are responsible for the respective interventions, with the child protection section playing a coordination role (for the flagship).

### **The ECM logic model:**

**The anticipated objectives, outcomes and outputs of the ECM flagship are as follows:**

<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development (SDG) Targets</b>	UNICEF SP Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation  SDG Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
<b>Contributions to UNICEF Outcome</b>	By 2025, children in Ethiopia, in both development and humanitarian contexts, have legal identity and are safe and protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices
<b>Programme Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output 1: Underserved/ marginalized adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced or widowed are engaged in gender transformative life skills and CSE programmes that build their knowledge, skills, awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.</li> <li>• Output 2: Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality</li> <li>• Output 3: Strengthened provision of integrated multi-sectoral services (WASH, Health, Social protection, Education and Nutrition services) to protect girls from child marriage</li> <li>• Output 4: Capacity building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multi-sectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child marriage across ministries and departments at sub-national levels.</li> </ul>

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to SDG target 5.3, to eliminate all harmful practices by 2030. The programme aims to reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before the age of 18 from 40 per cent to 27.6 per cent by 2025. To achieve this goal, the following immediate results and targets must be achieved:

Results and indicators		Targets
<b>INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, sexual and reproductive health</b>		
<b>Outcome indicator:</b> Proportion of girls who express increased sense of self-efficacy; who feel confident in their ability to negotiate and delay early marriage; who feel comfortable speaking without fear.		80%
<b>Output 1: Underserved/ marginalized adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced or widowed are engaged in gender transformative life skills and CSE programmes that build their knowledge, skills, awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.</b>		
1.1	Number of adolescent girls and boys that have participated in UNICEF-supported skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability	Total=18,000 (75% girls) Humanitarian = 4,665 (75% girls) Development = 13,335 (75% girls)
1.2	Number of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions in programme areas (targeting out-of-school girls only)	83,794
<b>Output 2: Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality</b>		
2.1	Number of people participating in community engagement and behaviour change interventions to address harmful practices, social and gender norms	572,826
2.2	Number of individuals reached through media programmes with messaging on key protective behaviours and access to services	3,912,000
<b>Output 3: Strengthened provision of integrated multi-sectoral services (WASH, Health, Social protection, Education and Nutrition services) to protect girls from child marriage</b>		
3.1	Number of adolescents reached through schools with Menstrual Hygiene Health Management implemented in schools' programmes as a result of UNICEF direct support and/or leveraged through national programmes.	473,700
3.2	Number of marginalized girls supported for school enrolment and retention	550,000
3.3	Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services	72,852
3.4	Number of health workers capacitated to provide gender responsive health services for adolescents	1076
3.5	Number of adolescents receiving nutrition services through with UNICEF support in the reporting year	1,058,419

3.6	Number PSNP Clients attending SBCC sessions that include preventative messaging on ending child marriage	4,600,000
<b>Output 4: Capacity building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multi-sectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child marriage across ministries and departments at sub-national levels.</b>		
4.1	Costed national plan / strategy on child marriage is implemented	Level 3: A costed national plan or strategy is implemented and has a budget.

The draft theory of change will be shared with the evaluators.

**Key Interventions across UNICEF sections that directly relate to ending child marriage include:**

- **Child protection:** Empowering out of school adolescent girls; social and behaviour change communications (SBCC) through community conversations, engagement of boys and men, engagement with religious and traditional leaders, media engagement; provision of Child Protection services including case management, use of referral pathways and legal information and provision; support to roll out of the government's National Costed Roadmap on Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) (2020-2024); evidence informing policy and decision making (yearly programme review, SBCC baseline-endline, data tracking system). Strengthening the social service workforce including child protection case management system (including information management, Child Protection Information Management -CPIMS); prevention and response to Violence Against Children (VAC); strengthening access to justice and birth registration as part of a civil registration and vital statistics system.
- **Education (Learning & Development):** Ensuring girls stay in school and transition from primary to secondary including with strengthened Gender Clubs, Gender Responsive Pedagogy, preventing and responding to School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) and revision of the general education curriculum, life skills education for adolescents 10-14 years old. Additionally, investing in Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) is crucial to ensure that young girls and boys are ready for schooling, so they have a better chance to enrol in primary education at an appropriate age, do well in school and stay in school, which can contribute to preventing child marriage.
- **WASH:** Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) in schools to support girls staying in schools. These include a comprehensive MHH intervention of gender and MHH friendly WASH facilities in schools, MHH rooms, provision of pre and post-menarche information including breaking of taboos surrounding menstruation by tackling social norms and attitudes in MHH education programmes. Encouraging school participation by improving WASH infrastructure beyond MHH and beyond school within the wider community.
- **Social and Behaviour Change (SBC):** Capacity building and strengthening of strategic engagement with children, families, communities and key influencers at all levels towards social and behaviour change: focusing on promoting social and gender norms/practice change. SBC will strengthen community participation and platforms; use evidence for decision making and apply gender transformative approaches in implementation, particularly targeting the most marginalized and vulnerable girls through in- and out-of-school platforms. SBC will also utilize multi-channel communication to bring the issue in the spotlight. SBC will focus on boys and men involvement, which addresses the social and gender norms that put girls at risk, by building the capacity of boys and young men to be change agents and to improve gender relations.

- **Health:** Capacity building of health workers and ensuring the health facilities are well equipped to provide gender responsive, accessible and quality health services for adolescents. Quality services can support girls in preventing pregnancy and continue their education, as protective measures against child marriage.
- **Nutrition:** Good nutrition is the key to unlocking every child's physical and cognitive potential. Evidence shows that child marriage is associated with increased likelihood of stunting and intergenerational malnutrition. Nutrition programmes in- and out-of-school promote healthy diets and lifestyles, such as iron folate supplementation for girls and nutritional counselling on dietary diversity that support and sustain good nutrition for girls in school and minimize intergenerational malnutrition. Supporting the District Health Information System (DHIS) to track key nutritional indicators by gender to improve understanding of the scope of problem and design adolescent appropriate nutrition programmes will be key to strengthen data management and utilization.
- **Emergency:** Include child marriage as part of Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and Child Protection (CP) prevention, mitigation and response.
- **Social Protection:** Support government to deliver 'cash plus' approaches; support shock responsiveness of government's social protection system; strengthen social workforce and community structures to support social protection implementation and provide services to the most vulnerable.
- **Communication:** Advocacy with high-level policy, decision makers and influencers to promote the Roadmap<sup>35</sup>, use of champions (including those that girls and communities can relate to) for ending child marriage. Traditional media engagement (radio, TV, website, social media) to popularize the roadmap to end Child Marriage (CM) and FGM, organize field visits for media, develop content for digital media, develop visibility materials, engage with celebrities/influencers on CM and FGM, amplify key messages on UN days.

### 3. Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

With the CPD approaching the midterm - amidst Covid-19, conflict and droughts - this evaluation is timely in looking at what has been done for Ending Child Marriage (including challenges faced and how the programme has mitigated), and in looking forward at how ECM flagship can accelerate the progress towards ECM.

Evaluation's expected users are mainly UNICEF Ethiopia Country and Field Offices, UNFPA, government counterparts (including Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), and Ministry of Education (MoE)), other implementing partners and key stakeholders. Secondary users are actors in the wider community working on ending child marriage.

The evaluation will be used mainly for learning and for informing UNICEF's and partners' way forward. The findings from the evaluation will be used by the flagship result stakeholders as input to improve strategy, to inform advocacy efforts and to draw and document lessons on the multisectoral approach to implementation.

The evaluation is expected to identify key lessons from design and implementation of the ECM flagship result which can inform its responsiveness and relevance to national needs.

The proposed approach to dissemination and advocacy for the evaluation findings and recommendations is first and foremost a workshop with key stakeholders to whom the recommendations are addressed, for the development of the Evaluation Management Response (EMR). A larger event with secondary users will also be organised, and the evaluation report will be uploaded in EISI, for easy access – and hopefully also on the national

<sup>35</sup> Government's National Costed Roadmap on Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) (2020-2024)



counterparts websites and social. Under the expert direction of UNICEF communication section, and guided by the needs of the child protection section, videos will be produced, for communicating visually and effectively to various audiences (including youth, persons with hearing impairment, non-readers, etc.) the evaluation findings and recommendations. Ideally young activists will be involved as well in the dissemination of findings and recommendations to peers and to the communities of rights holders.

The overall objective of this formative evaluation is to assess, draw lessons and document the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability<sup>36</sup>, and added value of the ECM flagship result and provide evidence, concrete recommendations, learning, strategy amendment and inform advocacy efforts during the programme implementation and during the different phases of the evaluation.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are :

- To assess flagship result design and results contributions of various actors, as well as the synergistic effects of the various interventions (from several sectors) to end ECM (at outcome level);
- Assess whether the results achieved demonstrate that interventions are on the right track to deliver ECM desired (disaggregated) results at scale;
- Identify challenges, risks and mitigation measures put in place;
- Assess the strength of partnership among the major stakeholders and implementing partners that has/might contributed to achieve results;
- Identify knowledge gaps as well as research topics to address the knowledge gaps.

#### 4. Scope of the evaluation

The thematic scope of the evaluation is the UNICEF Ending Child Marriage (ECM) flagship, as per the ECM logframe (paragraph 2 of this ToR). As such, the evaluation will look into the ending child marriage flagship in its various dimensions, from supporting an enabling environment to stop child marriage (for example by supporting a costed strategy/plan to end child marriage in the country), to strengthening provision of integrated multi-sectorial services, to engaging families, communities and leaders in dialogue and consensus building around alternatives to child marriage, to engaging girls at risk (and boys) in gender transformative life skills programmes that build their knowledge, skills and awareness of their rights and connect them to services. Gender, equity and child rights dimensions will have to be given adequate consideration, and the evaluation will ideally look at the flagship with a gender lens (for example in looking at how programmatic activities address gender dynamics related to ending child marriage).

The temporal scope is from the beginning of the Country Programme Document (CPD), July 2020, to the beginning of the evaluation fieldwork.

The geographical scope of the evaluation is national. However, while the desk review will cover sources and data from all regions, it would not be manageable to conduct fieldwork in all the 8 regions of the country. For this reason, three regions have been identified as promising for a telling analysis during the evaluation, and thus to be visited by the evaluation team for an in-depth analysis. The regions proposed and the rational for selection are in the table below, and they intend to represent examples of regions with good implementation of the ECM flagship:

Regions	Rational for selection
Oromia	The region has a high prevalence rate of 48% for the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before

<sup>36</sup> The evaluation criteria could be adjusted at inception phase.



	<p>age 18. It is a home for 5.3 million women and girls married before they reach 18 years which also means more girls are at risk of child marriage due to the high population.</p> <p>The GP ECM programme is under implementation in 11 woredas which is the second highest coverage after the Amhara region. The region also receives the second highest GP ECM budget as well as regular resources. Hence, worth considering for the evaluation considering the magnitude of the problem and better coverage.</p> <p>The region has been affected by drought that predisposed girls to marry from age 14. Analysis of child marriage for January to April of 2021 versus 2022 for the same months has shown in Oromia child marriage increased to 69%.</p> <p>Despite, these setbacks the region at the community level, has made some remarkable achievements on community mobilization and engagements, community surveillance committees that detect, rescue and report child marriage cases to the relevant authorities. At regional (system level), there are coordinated attempt of allied sectors of health, education, legal, safety and security extended to woreda level to implement national guidelines, laws, standards and manual relevant to ending child marriage.</p>
Somali	<p>The region has a high prevalence of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18.</p> <p>In addition, the region has underdeveloped infrastructure, limited access to services, limited capacity.</p> <p>The ECM programme has been under implementation since 2015.</p> <p>Despite these setbacks the region has increased the knowledge of community members on issues related to child marriage through community conversation sessions and training with a number of girls rescued from the practice and currently in schools. There are anti-HTP committees comprised of health, education, religious leaders, women leaders, police representatives at woreda that level meet on monthly with an standing agenda of to implement national guidelines, laws, standards and manual relevant to ending child marriage.</p>
Amhara	<p>The region has a high prevalence rate of 43% for the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18. It is a home for 4.5 million women and girls married before reaching 18 years.</p> <p>The ECM programme has been under implementation since 2015 and the region also covers 16 woredas which is the highest geographic coverage when compared with other regions. Accordingly, the region receives a significant proportion of the budget from GPECM allocation and regular resources. Thus, it is worth prioritizing it in the evaluation.</p>

	<p>The region has been seriously affected by conflict that halted programme interventions to end child marriage due to insecurity that resulted limited access of the targeted woredas and kebeles.</p> <p>Despite these setbacks the region has increased the knowledge of community members on issues related to child marriage through community conversation sessions and training with a number of girls rescued from the practice and currently in schools. There are anti-HTP committees comprised of health , education, religious leaders, women leaders, police representatives at woreda that level meet on monthly with an standing agenda of to implement national guidelines, laws, standards and manual relevant to ending child marriage.</p>
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In each region, few woredas will be selected for the fieldwork.

## 5. Evaluation questions and criteria

In line with the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability, the ECM flagship evaluation aims to address the following key evaluation questions throughout the programme implementation.

### RELEVANCE

- To what extent is/does the ECM flagship result design and implementation is relevant in addressing major issues for girls' vulnerability to Child Marriage
- How relevant and responsive has the ECM flagship result been to national and community needs, priorities and commitments?
- To what extent is the flagship aligned with UNICEF priorities with respect to ending child marriage?

### COHERENCE

- To what extent have the outputs of the ECM flagship result been achieved or are likely to be achieved efficiently through the linkages and synergies between sectors?

### EFFICIENCY

- How has the flagship result's approach facilitated linkages and synergies between sectors to accelerate efforts to end child marriage?
- To what extent have the outputs of the ECM flagship result been achieved or are likely to be achieved with the appropriate amount of resources (funds, expertise, time, procedures, rules and regulations, administrative costs, etc.)?
- To what extent the monitoring mechanisms are in place to track changes as result of ECM flagship result implementation?

### EFFECTIVENESS

- How are sectors contributing to the ECM flagship result? (inward and outward looking). More specifically, how adding in new elements (WASH, health, nutrition) in addition to child protection, C4D and education have made a difference (and are likely to be making a difference in the coming years of the flagship) to girls' wellbeing. In other words, if we control for child protection and education, what additional outcomes can be found from the Flagship.
- How much the programme has positively influenced (or is likely to do so in the coming years) systems and policies in different sectors to support girls who are vulnerable to child marriage – what is the quality of the multisectoral ending child marriage strategy and its implementation (flagship)?

### SUSTAINABILITY

- Will benefits last?
- What changes – attributable to ECM flagship result programming – can be identified and are likely to last in the lives of individuals, families, communities and the broader environment?
- Considering that there is a costed roadmap, the “National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C – 2020-2024”, is it implemented, is budget allocated and is there a mechanism to hold stakeholders accountable so to assure sustainability?

## 6. Methods

The formative evaluation of the ECM flagship result will explore how well the ECM flagship result design works along with exploring the implementation modality. It is suggested to use both quantitative and qualitative methods. Furthermore, the evaluation should shed light on the results achieved by the ECM flagship result.

An evaluability assessment has been finalised in May 2021, the report will be shared with the evaluators. In the meantime, the availability and reliability of disaggregated data might have changed, however programme monitoring data (mainly at output level, targets achieved) are available (mainly from implementing partners reports and field visits monitoring) and will be shared with the evaluation team, together with available reports and studies, as secondary sources of information for the evaluation at stake. Moreover, the child protection section is conducting a survey for the monitoring of outcome level indicators, and the results of the survey will be made available to the evaluation team as well. Primary sources of information are expected to be mainly people (both rights holders and duty bearers) that will be interviewed - main primary data collection methods will be Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), as well as observation during the fieldwork.

The evaluation will use participatory and culturally sensitive methodologies which consider specific situation of the locality; vulnerable groups are expected to be included, and the focus is expected to be strongly on utilization, with an equity, gender and human rights lens. The expected overall methodological approach for the evaluation is mixed method – qualitative primary data collection, and analysis of available (secondary) quantitative data, the evaluation suggested design is non-experimental.

It will be necessary to sample areas for in-depth fieldwork visits from the evaluation team – stakeholders and geographical mappings will be shared with the team, in order to guide the sampling for the fieldwork.

The data analysis methods expected are mainly narrative and thematic analysis (and possibly content analysis) of the primary data collected through KIIs and FGDs, as well as descriptive statistics of secondary data<sup>37</sup>. The bidding company are expected to suggest data analysis methods to answer the evaluation question in their proposal, and to refine them during the inception phase. Life histories should be considered as a powerful way to convey learnings.

The consulting firm will review the documentation related to the ECM flagship result, can propose additional evaluation questions and may suggest a different design method and tools to answer the proposed evaluation questions. The team will propose a provisional methodological design within the bid (including detailed cost estimates). The methodological design will include: an analytical framework; a strategy for collecting and analysing data; a series of specifically designed tools; and a detailed work plan and considerations due to COVID-19 that include social distancing. It is expected that evaluation approach and data collection and analysis methods are human rights based, child rights based and gender sensitive, and that evaluation findings/analysis will be disaggregated as much as possible (by gender, ethnicity, age, disability, etc.).

<sup>37</sup> “Taxonomy for Defining and Classifying UNICEF Research, Evaluation & Studies”, UNICEF Office of Research, September 2014.

Consideration when designing the evaluation method is to use mixed method approach and to employ context conscious innovative participatory evaluation methods where adolescents and youth, the group affected by child marriage get opportunity to participate throughout the evaluation process i.e. planning, implementation and recommendation. It is proposed that they can be involved in all aspects of the evaluation as advisors, peer researchers, documenters, active respondents, reviewers and change agents. However, there are ethical considerations that need to be thought when determining how best to engage adolescents in the process. Recent guidance from UNICEF's Evaluation Office on [Adolescent Participation in Monitoring and Evaluating UNICEF Programming](#) need to be consulted. This guidebook provides concrete tools and suggestions for youth participatory evaluation, along with practical examples from UNICEF Country Offices.

The evaluation will also follow the [UNEG Norms and Standards](#)<sup>38</sup>, as well as [UNICEF ethical guidelines](#)<sup>39</sup>.

The main elements of the method will be further developed during the inception phase in line with the agreed evaluation questions (including assumptions to be assessed, indicators, data collection tools and analysis approach) and analytical framework. The evaluation might also identify knowledge gaps which could be addressed with studies or research, which could be added as part of this evaluation or can be done in separate research.

#### **Limitations:**

The flagship approach is very ambitious and demanding (in terms of sectors coordination/alignment, above all) and results might not be yet immediately visible, moreover the flagship implementation was delayed in several *woredas* (provinces or counties); however this is a formative evaluation, mainly forward looking and the focus should be on whether the situation is promising for the acceleration of progresses in reducing child marriage by the end of the country programme (and ultimately by 2030, the SDGs horizon).

The ECM flagship is implemented nation-wide, with partnership at federal and states levels, with the units of implementation being the *kebeles* (groups of villages, the lowest/more grassroots administrative level in the country); in the framework of this evaluation, however, it will be impossible to cover all the country and representativity and generalizability of findings and recommendations will have to be carefully considered.

#### **Risks and risks mitigation:**

The current situations of conflict and drought in the country represent a risk for programme delivery, and hence to evaluation as well. Accessibility to certain areas might be/become an issue. The mapping of interventions will help in eventually redirecting the fieldwork, and secondary data and remote interviews should help cover eventually inaccessible areas.

Moreover, the changed situation in the country is a threat to the efforts to accelerate progresses in the elimination of child marriage, and this should be taken appropriately in consideration in the performance of the ending child marriage flagship during the first years of the country programme.

The evaluation team will have to elaborate on limitations and risks during the inception phase, and reflect their considerations in the inception report.

## **7. Ethical approval**

Ethical clearance is to be obtained from an internationally recognised Ethical Review Board (based in Ethiopia or abroad) prior to training and fieldwork implementation and in line with the

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1914>

<sup>39</sup> <https://gdc.unicef.org/resource/unicef-procedure-ethical-standards-research-evaluation-data-collection-and-analysis>; <https://www.unicef.org/media/reporting-guidelines>

international standards.<sup>40</sup> The evaluation team is expected to refer to [UNEG ethical guidance to evaluation](#)<sup>41</sup> as guiding principle to ensure quality of evaluation process.

For data collection in Ethiopia an authorization will have to be requested also from a federal or regional board. The firm needs to manage the ethical clearance process and the related costs.

## 8. Tasks with timeline

Task	Expected duration	Tentative timeline after contract signature	<b>Tentative evaluation service provider's workload (in weeks)</b>	Deliverables	Responsibility
Kick off	Two hours	One week	1	-	Evaluation manager with evaluation team
Inception report	Four weeks	Five weeks	4	Report	<b>Consultants</b>
Endorsement of inception report <sup>42</sup>	Three weeks	eight weeks			Evaluation manager / RO / reference group
Field work	Five weeks	13 weeks	5		<b>Consultants</b>
Preliminary findings and recommendations workshop	One day			Presentation	<b>Consultants</b>
Draft report	Four weeks	17 weeks	4	Draft report	<b>Consultants</b>
Quality assurance <sup>43</sup>	Two weeks	19 weeks			Evaluation manager / RO
Commenting process	Two weeks	21 weeks			Evaluation manager to coordinate
Response to the comments / Final report / Copy editing and design <sup>44</sup> A power point presentation of the evaluation	Two weeks	23 weeks	2	Final report PPT	<b>Consultants</b>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.unicef-irc.org/research/ethical-research-and-children/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>

<sup>42</sup> In case the report is not accepted, an additional commenting process might be necessary.

<sup>43</sup> In case the quality is not satisfactory, the process might take longer and the company to invest extra time.

<sup>44</sup> In case the quality is not satisfactory, the process might take longer and the company to invest extra time.

Dissemination workshop by MoWSA and UNICEF - Evaluation report presentation and management response	One day	24 weeks		Workshop	Evaluation manager to coordinate
Finalize remaining deliverables	4 weeks	28 weeks	4	Two pagers for each region; Drafting 1- 2 working papers <sup>45</sup> and make ready for submission to a journal <sup>46</sup> ; 5 graphic interchange format (GFI); 2 Infographics	<b>Consultants</b>
			<b>20 weeks</b>		

The consulting firm will be remunerated based on satisfactory completion of deliverables as specified in the above table. The final payment to the consultancy firm is dependent on the completion of all deliverables and submission of a full report.

## 9. Estimated duration of contract

8 months

## 10. Expected Deliverables and payments

The following are expected to be submitted by the consultant based on the agreed upon timeframe. All deliverables will be produced in English.

### A. Inception report

The firm will prepare, submit and present a brief inception report which details understanding of the task and how the evaluation questions will be addressed. This will ensure that the consultant, UNICEF and major stakeholders have a shared understanding of the evaluation.

<sup>45</sup> Local institutions' members and UNICEF staff will be encouraged to co-author the working papers.

<sup>46</sup> The firm is encouraged to reach out UNICEF staff to make them part of the working papers.

The inception report is expected to reflect and elaborate on scope of work, approach, methodology, design, analysis, ethical considerations (and eventually sampling procedures and sample size). It is expected to include annexes such as an evaluation matrix (which questions will be answered, how, what are the data sources), data collection tools, received ethical clearance; clear descriptions of activities, work plan with a proposed schedule of tasks, and timeframe. The report will be discussed and agreed upon with UNICEF and key stakeholders.

#### B. Fieldwork debriefings and draft evaluation report

Immediately following the fieldwork, UNICEF expects a debriefing on preliminary findings and recommendations. This is to receive immediate feedback after data collection before diving in data analysis to clarify vague areas if any.

The firm is expected to submit a draft evaluation report of maximum 40 pages (excluding annexes) for review and comments by UNICEF. UNICEF will share the draft report to all relevant stakeholders. Comments from the stakeholders will then be collected and provided to the firm for incorporation or amendment, as deemed necessary.

#### C. Final report

A final report, which has incorporated all the valuable comments of all the reviewers will be submitted to UNICEF. The content, structure and quality of the report should meet the requirements of UNICEF. A power point presentation of the evaluation will also be shared.

For the UNICEF evaluation reports standards<sup>47</sup> please check [here](#). The structure is expected to be as follows: executive summary; background, evaluation object, purpose scope and objectives, methodology, findings, conclusions, lessons learned, recommendations. UNICEF evaluation reports are expected to comply with and are assessed through the [GEROS](#) Quality Assessment System<sup>48</sup>, the evaluation team is expected to familiarize themselves and comply with the expected standards.

#### D. Other deliverables

Two pagers for each region; Drafting 1- 2 working papers and make ready for submission to a journal<sup>49</sup>; 5 graphic interchange format (GFI) and 2 Infographics.

Please find [here](#) the link to UNICEF guidance on external academic publishing (January 2017)<sup>50</sup>.

In summary the firm is expected to :

- Develop an inception report with high standard methodologies as per the TOR.
- Secure the necessary ethical clearance and other prerequisites to conduct the study.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/media/816/file/UNICEF-Adapted-UNEG-Evaluation-Report-Standards.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/global-evaluation-reports-oversight-system-geros>

<sup>49</sup> The firm is encouraged to reach out UNICEF staff to make them part of the working papers.

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.unicef-irc.org/files/upload/documents/UNICEF-External-Publishing.pdf>



- Finalize data collection tools.
- Conduct data collection.
- Data entry, cleaning and analysis.
- Write preliminary and final comprehensive report (including 4 pages executive summary).
- Consult with UNICEF and other partners throughout the different stages of the assessment.
- Ensure high-quality implementation is achieved.
- Produce brief learning documents which include ECM flagship knowledge gap and proposed kinds of research.
- Following the completion of data collection, cleaned raw data should be submitted to UNICEF.
- The firm will develop a PowerPoint presentation including the main findings.

The schedule of the payment will be as follow:

1. Upon submission of signed inception report , PPT and a validation meeting, **20 per cent of payment at this stage;**
2. Upon collection of data and draft evaluation report, **30 per cent of payment at this stage;**
3. Upon submission of signed final report (including a four pager executive summary), PPT, soft copy of data, **30 per cent of payment at this stage;**
4. Upon submission of two-pagers for each region, 2 working papers (which is ready for journal submission), 5 GFI and messages to be twitted, 2 infographics and learning documents including ECM flagship result knowledge gaps along with suggested studies to address them, **20 per cent of payment at this stage.**

## 11. Quality assurance

The company that will be awarded the evaluation contract is expected to assure the quality of the key milestone documents delivered by the evaluation team leader; the evaluation team leader is expected to assure the quality of the members' contributions. At the UNICEF level, the evaluation manager assures a first level of quality assurance of key deliverables (mainly inception and final reports), and shares them with the Regional Office for a second level of quality assurance. Once the deliverables are cleared, they are shared with the Evaluation Reference Group for commenting and advise, as well as with other bodies such as the Programme Management Team (PMT) – inception report – and Country Management Team (CMT) – draft report.

The ambition is to be able to compete, with the evaluation report, to the [UNICEF Best Evaluation](#)<sup>51</sup>, hence very high standard are sought.

## A. Governance of the evaluation, reporting and supervision

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<sup>51</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/best-evaluations>

The firm will report to the UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office Evaluation Specialist, who is the evaluation manager.

A Reference Group which is composed of relevant UNICEF, government and other main stakeholders (including youth) is established to serve on an advisory capacity; the group will be engaged mainly to comment at key milestones moments such as draft evaluation ToR, inception report and draft final report. The members of the reference group agree on a ToR that outlines the group's role and responsibilities.

## B. Evaluation criteria of proposals is the following

Technical – 70 percent

Technical Evaluation Criteria*	Score
<b>Proposed Methodology and Approach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall response and understanding of ToR</li> <li>• Proposed methodology and workplan</li> <li>• Using context conscious innovative participatory evaluation methods</li> </ul>	30
<b>Experience of Company and Key Personnel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisational capacity to deliver the work</li> <li>• The strength of the proposed team including the related experience of lead and key local consultants</li> <li>• Level of expertise with conducting evaluation involving adolescents</li> </ul>	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

*\*Only proposals which receive a minimum of 50 points will be considered further*

Financial – 30 percent

## C. Expected Skill and Qualification

**Required:** The international firm should have demonstrated experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative research as well as participatory research . The international firm should partners with local actors that have good experience in adolescence researches when developing the proposal . The team leader must be an experienced evaluator and have an advanced degree (at least master, PhD preferred) in a Social Science and at least 10 years of experience conducting evaluations in this area. The team leader or the local key expert should have experience facilitating evaluation involving adolescents. The team leader should have a solid understanding of child protection, adolescent issues as well as gender and development issues in Ethiopia, and be very familiar with qualitative and quantitative research methods in development context including in engaging adolescents in evaluations. The team leader should be fluent in written and spoken English.

Qualitative researchers should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and extensive experience in qualitative data collection, including gender-sensitive and

participatory methods and reporting. And preferably experts who has done extensive research on the study of interest.

**Desirable:** Experience conducting similar evaluations; excellent analytical and communication skills; ability to work in complex partnerships with researchers, government and development partners.

The evaluation company will have to assure to avoid any possible conflict of interest (for example by avoiding to hire evaluators who have been involved in the planning or implementation of the flagship. Moreover, the contractors are required to clearly identify any potential ethical issues and approaches, as well as the processes for ethical review and oversight of the evaluation process in their proposal.

## TEAM COMPOSITION

The below sets out the tentative workload of the different specialists, as well as the required skills for the different team members. Ideally the team is mixed in terms of gender, cultural backgrounds, thematic and language skills, international and national experts. The team should have experience covering evaluation, child protection, gender and other UNICEF programmes (health, nutrition, education, WASH, social policy).

Team leader	70 days
Thematic expert	70 days
Young evaluators / researchers	10-20 days each approximately
Text and video editor	10 days

Team leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant master's degree (evaluation, development studies/economics, social and/or gender studies, public health, etc.);</li> <li>• Experience in leading evaluation teams in political environments;</li> <li>• Experience in managing evaluations in the UN system;</li> <li>• Been evaluation team leader of at least 7 evaluations;</li> <li>• Good understanding of the child rights agenda and of UNICEF programmes;</li> <li>• Good understanding of integrating gender and human rights into evaluations;</li> <li>• Experience in evaluating child protection (better if child marriage), adolescence and community based programmes;</li> <li>• Experience in evaluations in the region (better if in Ethiopia);</li> <li>• Experience, passion and willingness to lead and mentor young evaluators/researcher;</li> <li>• Strong interpersonal skills;</li> <li>• Ability to work with senior officials;</li> <li>• Cultural sensitivity;</li> <li>• Language skills - Proficiency in English; Amharic desirable.</li> </ul>
Thematic expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant master's degree (sociology, gender studies, public health, qualitative and quantitative methods, education, law, etc.);</li> <li>• Experience in analyzing UNICEF programmes;</li> <li>• Experience in working on child protection - and on ending child marriage in particular – and on adolescence research;</li> <li>• Experience, passion and willingness to guide and mentor young evaluators/researcher;</li> <li>• Strong interpersonal skills;</li> <li>• Ability to work with senior officials;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural sensitivity;</li> <li>• Language skills - proficiency in English and Amharic is a requirement; languages of the targeted regions desirable.</li> </ul>
Young evaluators / researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University or recently graduated students from faculties of sociology, anthropology, law,...</li> <li>• Qualitative research methods in their curriculum of study;</li> <li>• Fieldwork / qualitative data collection experience (right holders interviews, focus group discussions) desirable;</li> <li>• Capacity to interact with communities and adolescents;</li> <li>• Cultural sensitivity;</li> <li>• Language skills - proficiency in English; knowledge languages spoken in the targeted regions are a requirement.</li> </ul>
Editor (Graphic designer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proved experience in editing text and delivering quality product;</li> <li>• Relevant training.</li> </ul>

## D. PIDB CODE

- Please select one of the following Generic Intervention Codes:

- ☐ 60: Analysis, research, and studies
- ☐ 61: Data, data bases, surveys and statistics
- ☒ 63: Evaluations

## E. Amount budgeted in AWP for this activity (US \$)

USD 150,000

## F. General Conditions: Procedures and Logistics

- The firm will not be provided lodging and/or meals.
- The firm will work from its own office facilities.
- UNICEF will not pay DSA in addition to the contract value to the consultants of the firm.
- The firm should provide its own materials, i.e. computer, office supplies, etc.
- The firm isn't authorized to have access to UNICEF transport.
- Flight costs of the consultants working for the firm would be covered by firm.
- Other transport costs of the consultants working for the firm would be covered by firm.

## G. Policy both parties should be aware of:

- Under the consultancy agreements, a month is defined as 21 working days, and fees are prorated accordingly. Consultants are not paid for weekends or public holidays.
- All remuneration must be within the contract agreement.
- No contract may commence unless the contract is signed by both UNICEF and the consultant or contractor.

- For international consultants outside the duty station, signed contracts must be sent by fax or email. Signed contract copy or written agreement must be received by the office before Travel Authorisation is issued.
- No consultant may travel without a signed travel authorisation prior to the commencement of the journey to the duty station.
- Consultants will not have supervisory responsibilities or authority on UNICEF budget.

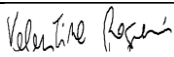
#### **H. Intellectual property rights (Insert this text or modify it based on discussions with government counterparts).**

All intellectual property rights in the work to be performed under this agreement shall be vested in the (GOE and UNICEF), including without limitations, the right to use, publish, translate, sell or distribute, privately or publicly, any item or part thereof. The (GOE and UNICEF) hereby grants to the Recipient Organization a non-exclusive royalty-free license to use, publish, translate and distribute, privately or publicly, any item or part of the work to be performed under this Agreement for non-commercial purposes upon approval of UNICEF for each publications or use. Neither the Recipient Organization nor its personnel shall communicate to any other person or entity any confidential information made known to it by (GOE and UNICEF) during the performance of its obligations under the terms of this Agreement nor shall it use this information to private or company advantage. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

The core reports will be issued by the steering committee for the research noting in the acknowledgements sections institutions and persons who have made major contributions to their authorship. Once the official report is cleared consultants will be free to work further on those papers for publication in peer reviewed journals upon consultation and approval from UNICEF. Consultants will provide the steering committee members with raw data, corrected/verified data once cleaned and programming files that permit replication of results from assessment report.

Data collected for the assessment is the property of the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF country programme. Master versions of the data, coding protocols and programming code permitting replication of results of core assessment reports will be kept by the programme. Copies of the data will be distributed to researchers with the permission of the steering committee with a view to helping to disseminate learning derived from the data sets.

I. TOR prepared, reviewed and cleared by:

	Evaluation Manager	Chief of Child Protection	Chief of Supply and Procurement	Deputy Representative	Approved by Representative
Name	Valentina Prosperi	Jolanda Van Westering  OIC Jean Choi	Stephane Arnaud	Jane Muita	Gianfranco Rotigliano
Signature					
Date	19.07.2022				

## Annex - IX Consent Form Templates

**Table: Consent Forms**

Respondent Type	Informed Consent Form
<i>Adolescents (Assent + Consent forms)</i>	
Girl under 18 (IDI)	1.1 + 1.2
Boy /husband under 18 (IDI)	1.1 + 1.2
Girl under 18 (FGD)	3.1 + 3.2
<i>Adults (Consent forms)</i>	
Girl over 18 (IDI)	2.1 [a]
Parents/guardians (IDI)	2.1 [b]
Husbands over 18 (IDI)	2.1 [c]
Key Informants (IDI)	2.2
Other Project Participants (FGD)	4.1



## 1.1 Informed Assent forms for interviews with child respondents (girls and boys, under 18 years old)

### Information Letter

Hello, my name is [researcher's name] and I work as a researcher at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution which has offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany. We thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss with you today.

We are conducting a study to understand more about the life of adolescent girls and boys in your community. We would like to spend some time with you and your family today, and ask you questions about your life experiences, your worries or concerns, and your hopes and wishes for the future. You can also tell us anything else that you think is important. There are no right or wrong answers, we would just like to hear what you think.

Our visit and discussion will take between two and three hours. There is no fixed time, you are free to share as much as you want and to let us know when you would like to stop.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You can refuse to answer any question that you don't want to answer, and you can stop your participation at any time without any problem. Your decision to participate and to answer questions will in no way affect any services that you receive.

We will not use your name and the information you provide will never be connected to you. Other people will not know that you participated in this study or what you have said. When we report the findings of this study to other people, the information you give us will be put together with that of others we have interviewed, so that no one will be able to tell what information came from you.

With your permission I would like to audio record our discussion. This way I can free myself from taking notes and can listen to the discussion later. The audio recording will be used solely for the purpose of this study and will never be used to identify you. *[Audio recording will be abandoned if participants object]*<sup>52</sup>

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after our interview, including how your data will be used, you can contact:  
Ms [redacted]  
Tel. [redacted] / email [redacted]  
Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)
- If you wish to raise any concerns about the interview or the researcher who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)
- If after this interview you feel you would need support and would like to talk to someone else about what we discussed, you can contact:  
[local counsellor or support person]<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> This section will only be included if the interview is to be recorded.

<sup>53</sup> To be defined with UNICEF, according to local implementing partners and/or operating NGOs in child protection in the locations where data collection will be conducted.

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## Assent Form

I have read (or \_\_\_\_\_ has read to me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the study to be done by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the researcher(s) questions related to this study, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that I can stop my participation in the study at any time without any consequences, by informing the researcher(s) of this decision.

By including my signature or thumb print below, I understand what is expected of me to take part in the study, I agree to participate, and I understand that I may withdraw at any time:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_/Thumbprint: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1.2 Informed Consent forms for parents/guardians for interviews with child respondents (under 18 years old)

### Information Letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hello, my name is [researcher's name] and I work as a researcher at Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution which has offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany.

We are conducting a study for UNICEF to better understand the life of adolescent girls and boys in this community. Your child has been selected to take part in the study. We would like to spend some time with your child and your family today, and ask your child questions about their life experiences, needs, concerns, wishes, views about their present and their future. There are no right or wrong answers, we would just like to hear what your child thinks.

Our visit and discussion will take between two and three hours to complete. There is no fixed time, your child is free to share as much as s/he wants, and s/he can let us know when they would like to stop.

Your child's participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Your child will not be compensated for their time. If your child chooses to participate, s/he is free to refuse to answer any questions, as s/he wishes. S/he can also end the discussion at any time without any consequences, even if we have already begun. Your child's decision to participate and to answer questions will in no way affect any services that you or they receive.

The information your child provides will be treated confidentially and will remain anonymous. We will not use your child's name and the information s/he provides will never be connected to her/him. Only our research team will know what your child shares with me today. We will only report in general terms what we learned from this discussion, and nobody will be able to identify a specific child or household from any interview.

With your permission, we would like to audio record the discussion. This way, I can free myself from taking notes and can listen to the discussion later. The audio recording will be used solely for the purpose of this study and will never be used to identify your child.  
*[Audio recording will be abandoned if participants object]<sup>1</sup>*

We thank you for your support with this project.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after our interview, including how your data will be used, you can contact:
- Ms. [redacted]  
Tel. [redacted] / email [redacted]  
Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)

- If you wish to raise any concerns about the interview or the researcher who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)
  - If after this interview your child feels that they would need support and would like to talk to someone else about what was discussed, you can contact:  
*[local counsellor or support person]*<sup>54</sup>
- 

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<sup>54</sup> To be defined with UNICEF, according to local implementing partners and/or operating NGOs in child protection in the locations where data collection will be conducted.

## Consent Form

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read (or \_\_\_\_\_ has read to me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the study to be conducted by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the researcher(s) questions related to this study, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that my child and/or I may withdraw from the session without penalty at any time by informing the researcher(s) of this decision.

With full knowledge of all the foregoing, I agree of my own free will to allow my child to participate in this interview.

By adding my signature or thumb print to this consent form, I am indicating that I have understood the purpose of my child's involvement in this study and that my child and/or I may withdraw at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 2.1 Informed Consent forms for interviews with adults: [a] girl participants over 18 years old, [b] parents/guardians, [c] husbands

### Information Letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

[a, b & c]

Hello, my name is [researcher's name] and I work as a researcher at Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution which has offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany. We thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss with you today. We are conducting a study for UNICEF to better understand the life of adolescent girls and boys in this community. Your family has been selected to take part in the study.

[a]

We would like to spend some time with you and your family today, and ask you questions about your life experiences, needs, concerns, wishes, views about your present and your future. There are no right or wrong answers, we would just like to hear what you think.

[b]

We would like to spend some time with you today, and ask you questions about your and your child's life experiences, needs, concerns, wishes, views about their present and their future. There are no right or wrong answers, we would just like to hear what you think.

[c]

We would like to spend some time with you today, and ask you questions about your and [name of your wife's / partner's] life experiences, needs, concerns, wishes, views about your present and future. There are no right or wrong answers, we would just like to hear what you think.

[a]

Our visit and discussion will take between two and three hours to complete. There is no fixed time, you are free to share as much as you want, and you can let us know when you would like to stop.

[b & c]

Our visit and discussion will take about 30 minutes to complete.

[a, b & c]

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You will not be compensated for your time. If you choose to participate, you are free to refuse to answer any questions, as you wish. You can also end the discussion at any time without any consequences, even if we have already begun. Your decision to participate and to answer questions will in no way affect any services that you or your family receive.

The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will remain anonymous. We will not use your name and the information you provide will never be connected to you. Only my research team and I will know what you share with me today. We will only report in general terms what we learned from this discussion, and nobody will be able to identify a specific person or household from any interview.

With your permission, we would like to audio record the discussion. This way, I can free myself from taking notes and can listen to the discussion later. The audio recording will be used solely for the purpose of this study and will never be used to identify you. *[Audio recording will be abandoned if participants object]*<sup>1</sup>

We thank you for your support with this project.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after our interview, including how your data will be used, you can contact:
  - Ms [REDACTED]  
Tel. [REDACTED] / email [REDACTED]  
*Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)*
  - If you wish to raise any concerns about the interview or the researcher who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)
  - If after this interview you feel you would need support and would like to talk to someone else about what we discussed, you can contact:  
*[local counsellor or support person]*<sup>55</sup>
- 

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<sup>55</sup> To be defined with UNICEF, according to local implementing partners and/or operating NGOs in child protection in the locations where data collection will be conducted.



## Consent Form

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read (or \_\_\_\_\_ has read to me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the study to be conducted by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the researcher(s) questions related to this study, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that I may withdraw from the session without penalty at any time by informing the researcher(s) of this decision.

With full knowledge of all the foregoing, I agree of my own free to participate in this study.

By adding my signature or thumb print to this consent form, I am indicating that I have understood the purpose of my involvement in this study and that I may withdraw at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 2.2 Informed Consent forms for interviews with key informants

### Information letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hello. My name is [researcher's name] and I work as a consultant for the Centre for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution which has offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany.

We are conducting a study for UNICEF about the End Child Marriage (ECM) Flagship Result programme, to better understand how the implementation is working in practice and gather feedback from the organisations and the participants involved, for the next steps of the programme. We would like to discuss with you about your experience with this programme and your organisation's involvement in it.

We thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss with you today. Our discussion will take approximately one hour.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You will not be compensated for your time. Please note that you can refuse to answer any questions, and we can also end the interview at any time, without any penalty.

The information you provide will be treated confidentially. We will never use your name, and we will not disclose to anyone what answers you have provided. When we prepare reports of this study, what you tell us will be anonymised; this means that we will assign a numerical code in place of your name.

With your permission, I would like to audio record our discussion. This way I can free myself from taking notes and can listen to the discussion later. The audio recording will be solely for the purpose of this study and will never be used to identify you.

*[audio recording will be abandoned if the participant objects]*

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after our interview, including how your data will be used, you can contact:
  - Ms [redacted]  
Tel. [redacted] / email [redacted]  
Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)
- If you wish to raise any concerns about the interview or the researcher who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)



## Consent Form

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Location:**\_\_\_\_\_

I have read (or \_\_\_\_\_ has read to me) about the information presented in the information letter regarding the interview to be conducted by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask questions related to this interview, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that I may withdraw from the interview without penalty at any time by advising the interviewer of this decision.

With full knowledge of all the foregoing, I agree of my own free will to participate in this interview.

By adding my signature or thumb print to this consent form, I am indicating that I have understood the purpose of my involvement in this interview and that I may withdraw at any time.

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 3.1. Informed Assent forms for focus group discussions (FGDs) with child respondents (under 18 years old)

#### Information Letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitators:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hello and welcome to our session! Thank you for taking the time to join us today.

My name is *[facilitator's name]* and assisting me is *[second facilitator name, if applicable]*. We are part of a team working for the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution with offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany.

We are here today to discuss and learn about the life of adolescent girls and boys in your community. We will ask you questions about the girls' club that you are/were a part of, your life experiences, your worries or concerns, and your hopes and wishes for the future. You can also tell us anything else that you think is important.

Please feel free to share your point of view openly with us, even if it is different from what others have said. There are no right or wrong answers. This also means that we allow others to share their opinions without interrupting or correcting them. We also ask you to keep the information that is shared within the group in confidence.

We anticipate that our discussion today will take about two hours.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You can refuse to answer any question that you don't want to answer, and you can leave the discussion at any time without any problem, even if it has already begun.

With your permission, we would like to audio record this discussion. The audio recording will be solely for the purpose of this study and will never be used to identify you.

Please note that the information you provide will be treated confidentially and will remain anonymous. We will not use your name and the information you give will never be connected to you. When we prepare reports of this study, we will assign a number code in place of your names and will not use your names or any other information that could identify you.

In appreciation of your time given to this session we have provided some refreshments for you to have during our discussion.

We thank you very much for your participation.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after our interview, including how your data will be used, you can contact:
- Ms. [REDACTED]  
Tel. [REDACTED] / email [REDACTED]  
*Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)*



- If you wish to raise any concerns about the interview or the researcher who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)
  - If after this interview you feel you would need support and would like to talk to someone else about what we discussed, you can contact:  
*[local counsellor or support person]*<sup>56</sup>
- 

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<sup>56</sup> To be defined with UNICEF, according to local implementing partners and/or operating NGOs in child protection in the locations where data collection will be conducted.

## Assent Form

I have read (or someone has read for me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the focus group discussion being facilitated by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the facilitator(s) questions related to this discussion, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that I may withdraw from the session without consequence at any time by informing the facilitator(s) of this decision.

I agree of my own free will to participate in this session and to keep in confidence information that could identify specific participants and/or information they provide.

By including my signature or thumb print below, I understand what is expected of me to take part in the study, I agree to participate, and I understand that I may withdraw at any time:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_/Thumbprint: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3.2 Informed Consent forms for parents/guardians of child respondents (under 18 years old) – Focus Groups Discussions

### Information Letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hello! We are part of a team working for the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution with offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany. Your child has been selected to participate in a discussion about the life of adolescent girls and boys in this community for a study we are conducting for UNICEF. Through this discussion, we hope to learn more about adolescents' life experiences, needs, concerns, wishes, views about their present and their future.

Your child's participation in this discussion is entirely voluntary. If s/he chooses to participate, s/he is free to refuse to answer any questions, as s/he wishes. S/he can also end the discussion at any time, even if we have already begun, without any penalty.

Our discussion will take about two hours.

With your permission, we would like to audio record this discussion. Only our research team will know what your child tells us today. We will not directly share this information with anyone outside of the research team. Your child's information will be kept anonymised. This means that we will only report in general terms what we learned from this discussion, and nobody will be able to identify a specific child or household in the discussion.

Please note that your child is not being compensated for their time. In appreciation of your child's time given to this discussion, we are providing some refreshments for the children to have during our discussion.

We thank you for your support to this project.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after the session, including how your child's data will be used, you can contact:
- Ms [REDACTED]  
Tel. [REDACTED] / email [REDACTED]  
*Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)*
- If you wish to raise any concerns about the discussion or the researcher(s) who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)
- If after this session you or your child would need support and would like to talk to someone else about what we discussed, you can contact:  
[local counsellor or support person]<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> To be defined with UNICEF, according to local implementing partners and/or operating NGOs in child protection in the locations where data collection will be conducted.



## Consent Form

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitator(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read (or \_\_\_\_\_ has read to me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the focus group discussion being facilitated by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the facilitator(s) questions related to this discussion, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that my child and/or I may withdraw from the discussion without penalty at any time by advising the facilitator(s) of this decision.

With full knowledge of all the foregoing, I agree of my own free will to allow my child to participate in this discussion and to keep in confidence information that could identify specific participants and/or information they provide.

By adding my signature or thumb print to this consent form, I am indicating that I have understood the purpose of my child's involvement in this discussion and that my child and/or I may withdraw at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 4.1 Informed Consent forms for adults (all respondents) – Focus Groups Discussions

### Information Letter

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitators:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hello and welcome to our session! Thank you for taking the time to join us today to talk about your experience with UNICEF's End Child Marriage project. My name is *[facilitator's name]* and assisting me is *[second facilitator name, if applicable]*. We are part of a team working for the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), a non-profit research institution with offices in Addis Ababa and in Germany, and we hope to learn about your experiences with the project in your community and your views on this topic.

Please feel free to share your point of view openly with us, even if it is different from what others have said. There are no right or wrong answers. This also means that we allow others to share their opinions without interrupting or correcting them. We also ask you to keep the information that is shared within the group in confidence. Please do not share outside the group any information that could potentially identify a participant and his or her comments.

We anticipate that our discussion today will take about two hours.

Your participation in this session is entirely voluntary. If you choose to participate, you are free to refuse to answer any questions, as you wish. You can also choose to leave the discussion at any time, even if we have already begun, without any penalty.

With your permission, we would like to audio record this discussion. The information provide will be treated confidentially and will remain anonymous. When we prepare reports of this study, we will assign a numerical code in place of your names and will not use your names or any other information that could identify you.

Please note that you are not being compensated for your time. In appreciation of your time given to this session we have provided some refreshments for you to have during our discussion.

We thank you very much for your participation.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the study.

- If you have questions that you would like to discuss after the session, including how your data will be used, you can contact:
  - Ms [REDACTED]  
Tel. [REDACTED] / email [REDACTED]  
*Qualitative Research Manager at the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)*
- If you wish to raise any concerns about the discussion or the researcher(s) who took part in it, you can do so directly via this e-mail address: [complaints@c4ed.org](mailto:complaints@c4ed.org)

## Consent Form

**Title of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitators:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read (or someone has read to me) and understood the information presented in the information letter about the focus group discussion being facilitated by the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). I have had the opportunity to ask the facilitator(s) questions related to this discussion, to receive satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details I wanted. I am aware that I may withdraw from the session without penalty at any time by advising the facilitator(s) of this decision.

With full knowledge of all the foregoing, I agree of my own free will to participate in this session and to keep in confidence information that could identify specific participants and/or information they provide.

By adding my signature or thumb print to this consent form, I indicate that I have understood the purpose of my involvement in this study, that I may withdraw at any time and that I will not share outside the group any information that could potentially identify a participant and his or her comments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date